

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
**OF THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ON 4 OCTOBER 2017**

In Attendance: Louise Elder, Lynn Taylor, Claire Kerr, Lynda Brown, Gillian Aidsens, Eric Lumsden, Mike Paterson, Donald Morrison, James Lumsden, Tricia Gallagher (Acting Head Teacher), Clare McTiernon (Acting Deputy Head Teacher), Graham Henderson, Dean Moore

Apologies were received from: Andrea Dalziell, Karen Faulkner

**WELCOME**

Gillian welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Graham Henderson, the PTC Science.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**GRAHAM HENDERSON**

Graham Henderson introduced an interesting talk on the Science Department and the good set of results from the diet of exams. Graham stressed that there needs to be in place a curriculum that is engaging for all learners from S1 to S6 and that high attainment is driven by the learning experience, together with high expectations. He is also keen to encourage more girls to take the science subjects. Graham answered a number of questions and his presentation was much appreciated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report is per the statement attached.

**ACTING HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

This report was quite brief as the Parent Council had met recently and the Acting Head Teacher stressed that the broad general education curriculum was continuing to be developed. The first years had sat the Cognitive Attitude Test (CAT) and the third years were about the start the new standardised tests set by the Scottish Government. Various departments

were looking at the exam diet results. The Open Evening is at the beginning of November and various achievement meetings have been held with Councillors and Centre officials. The school has recently been awarded a Stem Ambassador award and the Sports Scotland silver award. There continues to be a vacancy in the English Department, even after four adverts and there is an absence in the Modern Languages Department.

### **SCHOOL AND PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS**

James Lumsden and Dean Moore reported on the various school achievements, including a successful and well attended band camp weekend. The school has also achieved more than 1,000 hours of volunteering through the Saltire Awards, S1 to S3 pupils have been developing their digital literary skills and, in a West Lothian golf competition, a pupil took first place. The school recently had 25 Norwegian visitors and there are eight Norwegian pupils in S6 this year. The school also has an S2 pupil representing Scotland in karate in Berlin and an under-17 girl is in the Scotland Football Squad for the championship in Lithuania.

### **FUNDRAISERS**

There was a meeting on Tuesday and help is really needed for setting up and clearing at the Craft Fair which is proposed for 25 November. A new volunteer is needed to erect the signage and help is always needed at the events in the school with serving teas and coffees and the school fundraisers continue to look for ideas for fundraising.

### **PARENT FOCUS GROUP**

The school is looking for assistance in developing the School Improvement Plan for engagement with pupils under the How Good is our School 4 criteria. It was agreed that a number of parents would meet with Clare McTiernon to work on parent-friendly materials.

Thereafter, the meeting concluded with Gillian thanking everyone for their attendance.