

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**ON 22 NOVEMBER 2017**

In Attendance: Gillian Adens, Eric Lumsden, Vicky Walker, Donald Morrison, Tricia Gallagher, Susie Muirhead, Charlie Holt, Dean Moore, Louise Elder, Karen Faulkner, Sarah Henley, Lynn Taylor, Andrea Dalziel, Laura Dewar and Clare McTiernan

Apologies were received from: Mike Paterson, James Lumsden

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Gillian welcomed everyone and the usual introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After discussion, the Minutes were proposed by Louise Elder and seconded by Lynn Taylor and approved.

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

Charlie Holt provided a statement with regard to the Duke of Edinburgh activities at the school. The feedback from parents was this has been a fantastic opportunity. Tricia Gallagher as Acting Head Teacher praised Charlie for his tremendous efforts and her comments were ratified by the Parent Council.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Susie Muirhead, who is the Acting PTC for Social Subjects, gave an overview of the Social Subjects running at the school. The staffs dedication is shown in the attainment results, especially improvements in the sections of our school community who fall within Classes 1 & 2 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Changes are being made to geography field work so that it is accessible to all. The broad general education is being focused upon and there are big changes due to the S4 assessments and exams and Geography is also being looked into, bringing in statistics award into the Advanced Higher. The Social Subjects are looking to integrate career choices and increasing business links and digital learning into the faculty. The Social Subjects cover Moral Philosophy Studies, History, Geography, Modern Studies, Business Studies and Philosophy. A question was asked about the choice of Social Subjects, given that S4s only choose six National 5 subjects. It was

reported that there has not been any fall seen in the selection of Social Study subjects, which is still strong. As a faculty, it is open to appropriate pupils doing a crash Higher. Susie Muirhead also spoke about the Digital Schools Award, where she has a whole school remit and increasing the flexibility of how and where to learn. It is hoped that by 2020 the school will have achieved the Digital Schools Award. There was suggestion of a parent being on the team taking forward the Digital Schools Award and the school will look at this, going forward. Susie Muirhead also took a number of questions which she answered fully. The Parent Council recorded their appreciation of her efforts and time she has given to the Parent Council tonight.

### **HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

The S1 Parents Night saw an 82% sign up for appointments and 80% turned up on the night. This was followed up with calls to parents who could not make it on the night to try and find out ways to engage with those parents. S3s have completed the standardised assessments and the results of these are now being analysed and much of the information will be capable of being shared with parents. It was reported the English and numeracy assessments were challenging and the writing assessment was easier. It was reported there had been no disruption to the school carrying out the standardised assessments.

Prelim preparations are well under way and next week the school is hosting a Book Week. This is promoting literacy and reading. Modern languages are carrying out a transition event and there are assemblies being carried out on knife crime and anti-bullying. Charity work continues with £3,000 recently being raised.

The Studying for Success Evening started tonight. This is an open library where resources are available. Twelve pupils attended and it will run on Mondays and Wednesdays. It was suggested that teas and coffees and even pizza could be provided to the students as some pupils may be having a very long day at school and there was an offer for the Parent Council to fund the food and drink, if required.

It was reported that Catrina Hatch's secondment at the Centre had been extended for a further year and all acting posts are continuing.

Staffing: Advert number 6 has been published and there is still no recruitment. The school is not looking at cutting any time in English. Various staff changes have been made to accommodate this. In Drama, Howden Park are coming in to do specialist works with S3 drama pupils and Amanda Lyons was promoted to Principal Teacher at Kings Park Secondary. The Parent Council agreed that staff being promoted, even outwith the school, is excellent as it shows the progress and value of the staff at the James Young.

### **SCHOOL AND PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Dean Moore reported that three Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards had been achieved and the P7 Open Evening had been very successful. S3 and S4 pupils were at the West Lothian Debate on Fox Hunting. S1 and P7 pupils from Dedridge watched the production of Jason and the Argonauts and there have been various sporting successes.

### **WEBSITE REPORT**

Donald Morrison met with the West Lothian Council Team recently and are now starting on Phase 4 which includes our school. The Council are setting up the framework of pages and moving content is up to the school itself. There will be a training session in January. The website will have a different look and feel but the content will still be the school's. There is no automatic way of transferring data.

### **FUNDRAISING TEAM**

Vicky reported on the activities of the fundraisers and that Sarah had put out all of the road signs. The Parent Council expressed their thanks. Vicky confirmed that she had enough volunteers for Friday and Saturday but is always looking for more assistance.

### **NATIONAL AND LOCAL ISSUES**

Eric reported on the ongoing national issues with regard to staff recruitment, etc.