

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL OF THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH  
SCHOOL ON 28 NOVEMBER 2018**

In Attendance: Eric Lumsden, Donald Morrison, Gillian Aids, Louise Elder, Vicky Walker, Claire Kerr, Douglas Pirie, Caron Quinn, Dawn Linkstone, Lynn Taylor, Trish Gallagher (Head Teacher), Mr Holt

Apologies were received from: Sarah Henley, Louise Tait, Donald Morrison, Allison Brogan, Peter Heggie, Elaine Ballantyne, Mike Paterson, Audrey Wright

Mr Holt updated the Parent Council on various activities and had a handout which he circulated. The Parent Council formally welcomed the continuing progress of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and invited Mr Holt to apply for further funding as it is an area of the school that the Parent Council is keen to support.

**SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS**

The School Captain updated the Parent Council on various school achievements since the last Parent Council Meeting, which include success in speed climbing, swimming trials, sports leadership, girls and boys football, pentathlon, dance and basketball. The P7 Open Evening was very successful, as was the S1 Parents Night. There is a senior French exchange trip to Nantes for a week and in the West Lothian Council competition for naming the road gritters, James Young had three names in the final twenty. Fifty students took part in the twelve hour readathon. There have been various trips and events outwith and in the school. The pop-up Prom shop is an initiative from staff in the school. There were aware that some pupils were not going to the Prom because of the expense, not just of the tickets but of dresses, suits, etc. Two staff members have asked for donations and various prom dresses, kilts, shoes, etc, have been provided. The Co-op have provide some sponsorship and there is a fashion show on 19 December at 6.00 pm as a fundraiser. The school is supporting this fully. Members of the Parent Council undertook to contact people they know who may be able to assist further.

**HEAD TEACHER REPORT**

The Head Teacher reported the Open Evening was very well attended and there was some very positive feedback. The Study for Success sessions have

started for the senior pupils and are now running on Mondays and Thursdays until the exams. Some of the senior pupils had also been working with management from Asda in building resilience.

The school Maths staff were looking at improving methodologies and have been nominated for an award and actually won the first prize for quality improvement in methodology. The Children in Need event raised £850 for a non-uniform day. The Head Teacher reported that at the S1 Parents Evening there was a 78% attendance and that Mrs McNeill has been calling to find out the barriers to others attending and the S1 contact with parents is now standing at 85%. The Christmas Concert is on 13 December and there has been quite a bit of movement in staffing in Modern Languages. The situation is difficult and the school is having to be inventive to cover classes but new staff are being recruited. Mr Buethune retired from Physics today and it was reported Mrs Dewar is recovering from her illness.

Depute posts have both been advertised and closed for applications last Sunday and there are a good number of applications. The long leet interviews are on 3 December with the short leet interviews on 19 December. A couple of parents volunteered to assist with the long leet interviews on 3 December. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Parent Council will be arranged for the evening of 3 December for feedback on the long leet interviews. The Prelim timetable has also now been published.

### **PARENTAL TOOL KIT – LEARNING TOGETHER**

The Head Teacher brought along a template for the Parental Tool Kit which she would like the Parent Council to complete. The Parent Council undertook to do this at a further meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

There is just over £6,000 in the account with commitments of £1,500 towards the school reading programme. Moving forward, there is a need to fundraise.

### **FUNDRAISING**

It is reported that Vicky is still attending the Parents Evenings but a fundraising co-ordinator needs to be appointed.

### **NATIONAL AND LOCAL ISSUES**

Eric updated the Parent Council on the National Health Wellbeing initiatives.

### **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 3 DECEMBER 2018**

Gillian Aiden was unavailable so Louise chaired the Meeting and welcomed everyone. The Head Teacher advised that four candidates were interviewed for each of the two posts which had been advertised. The focus group concurred with the panel and two candidates will go to short list for each of the posts. There was a comment that a focus needs to be made on communication with families.