

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL OF THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL

ON 30 JANUARY 2019

In Attendance: Donald Morrison, Gillian Aidens, Audrey Wright, Louise Elder, Vicky Walker, Claire Kerr, Douglas Pirie, Caron Quinn, Dawn Linkston, Sarah Henley, Peter Heggie, Lynn Taylor, Mike Paterson, Trish Gallagher (Head Teacher), Claire McTiernan (Depute Head Teacher), Brook Neval (JYHS Captain)

Apologies were received from: Eric Lumsden, Louise Tait, Allison Brogan, Elaine Ballantyne

1. Gillian opened the meeting with introductions, thanked everyone for attending and passed on the Parent Council (PC) congratulations to Claire McTiernan on her promotion to Depute Head Teacher.
2. Minutes of the last meeting on 20 November 2018 were proposed by Claire Kerr and seconded by Louise Elder.

3. SCHOOL CAPTAIN UPDATE

The School Captain updated the PC on various pupil achievements since the last PC Meeting, these included success in shotput, swimming, table tennis, running, Tae Kwon Do, S1-3 girls football and volleyball.

Matthew Fontaine from James Young won the recent West Lothian Council competition to name the new road gritters.

The Pop-Up Prom fashion show on 19 December was very successful and attendees were extremely impressed with the confidence of the students. The Head Teacher is currently exploring options within the school for the long term storage of the donated prom clothes.

Action: Head Teacher

The Christmas concert was also another well received event thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees and participants.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

£6,041 in the account with commitments of £1,500 towards the JYHS Reads programme, so far the first £500 instalment has been made, the school will advise PC when the next instalment is needed. Bank signatory forms were passed to the new Treasurer. Moving forward, there is a need to fundraise.

5. HEAD TEACHER REPORT

The Head Teacher provided a report on recent activities within the school as follows:

Senior Phase Parents Evening – held over two nights and was well attended.

Prelims – final prelims held this week, teachers are now starting to analyse the results to ensure pupils who need it get the help they need. An assembly will be held next week, focus going forward will be on study techniques (especially for those sitting Highers). Twilight Support has started earlier this year which meant a short notice deadline although students can still sign up for this. Targeted

support will follow shortly, Study for Success is also running at the library. Details of all exam support classes will be available on the school website. There are also Master Classes due to start soon for students studying Highers English and Maths.

Depute Head Teacher also mentioned Course Content information is now available on the school Website with the S2-6 Careers Event being held at the school on 31 January. Claire Kerr highlighted an issue with the Course Content web link asking for a Google account, Depute Head Teacher to investigate/correct.

Action: Depute Head Teacher

Upcoming events include the S2 Parents Evening on 5 February.

The JYHS Library recently received a Gold Award from the School Library Services – UK, congratulations and a special mention to the library monitors for their help.

Staff Updates

- Claire McTiernan – new Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum).
- Evelyn Russell – new Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support) will join JYHS on 19 February from Broxburn Academy, in the interim Gail Hope is covering this role as Mrs Lundberg left at the end of last term to start her new role teaching Maths at Armadale Academy.
- Graham Henderson – Acting Depute post, Learning & Teach Focus.
- Gemma Reid – French & Spanish.
- Miss Casey currently standing in for Ms Dewar who is recovering well from her illness and hopes to be back at JYHS soon.
- Lesley White is on bereavement leave and is being covered by Mrs Kendall.
- Currently advertising for a Music Teacher as Miss Beattie is due to leave as the end of session.
- Due to the gap in German teachers, the focus will move to French/Spanish with those studying S3 and above continuing to receive German as a priority. Sarah Henley highlighted this is not ideal for those children having studied German in primary, the Head Teacher is aware and continues to work on this.

Professional Learning Leadership Academy – the Head Teacher talked about her plans to relaunch and refocus this initiative to help grow and strengthen the teachers at JYHS.

Parent Toolkit – thanks from Head Teacher to the PC for completing the questionnaire which will be used in conjunction with the teachers completed questionnaire to update the school improvement plans.

Study Leave – information to be added to the school website as soon as possible.

Action: Head Teacher

6. CEDAR BANK SCHOOL RELOCATION TO JYHS GROUNDS

Head Teacher advised that unfortunately Mr Jim Cameron was unable to attend the meeting but Melanie Lawrie will shortly be arranging a date to present to all parents and interested local residents on the proposal to relocate Cedar Bank School to JYHS grounds.

Peter Heggie, as a member of the local council, was able to provide some additional information. Cedar Bank provides special support needs over 3 sites for 130 pupils, the driver is to relocate this to one mainstream school in West Lothian and JYHS is being considered for this. The pre consultation process has begun, decision expected to be made by the end of August/beginning of September. Issues discussed included: impact on access to school grounds, which feeder primaries does Cedar Bank cater for, new accommodation to be built in JYHS but where in grounds and keen to see results

of impact analysis, it will remain a separate entity, will additional resources be available to JYHS, possible congestion may be addressed by Cedar Bank children arriving later and leaving earlier or opening an entrance from the Aldi side of the school.

7. **FUNDRAISERS REPORT**

Careers Event 31 January – additional help desperately needed to man the PC tea/coffee/juice stall.

S2 Parents Night 6 February – Dawn and Claire manning the stall with Vicky helping with initial set up.

Forthcoming events listed on the Fundraisers Page on the school website, additional help needed. Vicky Walker to expand on information on website and send to Head Teacher for refreshing Fundraisers page.

Action: Vicky Walker/Head Teacher

Fundraising Event for outside benches – band concert in school (held by BurnOut – three 6th year pupils) to be held before Easter, Head Teacher to look into possible dates.

Action: Gillian Adens/Head Teacher

Head Teacher suggested using S6 volunteers to help with Fundraising, Claire Kerr asked for this to be S5 and S6. Head Teacher to organise date to meet with S5/6 volunteers and Vicky and Claire and help promote concert.

Action: Vicky Walker/Claire Kerr/Head Teacher

8. **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Donald Morrison advised there are two technical areas holding up the launch of the new school website; (a) forms – as of this week these are now up and running (contact us forms) and (b) calendar – the council is building this but are very behind, due end January. Gillian/Donald to meet and agree final review dates.

Action: Gillian Adens/Donald Morrison

9. **WEST LOTHIAN/NATIONAL ISSUES UPDATE**

In Eric's absence, Peter Heggie provide a brief update as follows:

- WLC Budget will be announced in 2 weeks, 12 February (currently in year 2 of 5 year of £190m cuts), expect £5.6m cuts in 2019/20 budget.

10. **NEXT MEETINGS**

- 11 March 2019
- 15 May 2019

Suggested topics to cover in forthcoming meetings:

- Interventions
- Explore parental engagement (possibly looking at Bankton PS successes) and include as part of Parental Toolkit
- New posts and what they plan to bring to the school
- Talk from Librarian and possibly library monitors