

JYHS PC AGM Thursday 15th September

6.30pm – 8.00pm

- Meeting Opening (PC Chair – Andy Walker)
- Minutes Silence to recognise the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II
- Chair Report
- Notice of those PC members who have stated their desire to step down.
- Nominations/Confirmations for Parent Council positions.
- Head Teacher Report
- Any other updates from School.
- Treasurer Report
- Fundraiser Report
- AOB
- Dates for next meetings
 - Tuesday 15th November 2022
 - Thursday 19th January 2023
 - Tuesday 14th March 2023
 - Thursday 18th June 2023

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Parents	School	Apologies
Andy Walker	Elaine Mackie	Jane Keegan
Fiona McCormack	Clare McTiernan	Peter Heggie
Sarah Henley	Tricia Gallagher	
Linda Brogan	Evelyn Russell	
Douglas Pirie	Michael Sammons	
Gemma Gough		
Lorna Muir		
Oksana Burko		
Liubov Romanlv		

S6 Champions Sam Craig and Aimee Mackie also attended.

Meeting opened by Chair Andy Walker

Minutes Silence Observed

Parent Council Chair Report (Andy Walker)

PC needs to try and increase visibility of role and events to encourage additional parents and carers to participate. PC needs to better use all available methods of communication School Website, social media, Email to get the message out to as many people as possible.

The quality and quantity of information provided by the school at PC meetings deserves a much greater audience and it shall be a priority for the PC to increase visibility and hopefully attendance at future meetings.

ACTIONS: Andy Walker

Update Parent Council area of School Website.

Create new Parent Council Facebook Group.

Election of Office Bearers

Claire Kerr will step back from fundraising activities this year. A huge thank you to Claire for all your hard work from everyone at the school and the parents.

Andy Walker was returned as Chair.

Douglas Pirie was returned as Treasurer.

Sarah Henley will continue in her fundraising role.

Positions that require to be filled...

Vice-Chair

Secretary

We also need additional persons to join the PC to assist with fundraising activities.

ACTION: Andy Walker

Define what is required of each PC role and look to recruit additional members.

S6 Champions (Aimee and Sam)

Aimee and Sam gave a run through of the activities they undertake as Champions. They are looking to continue getting things back to normal after the impact of pandemic on school life. They want to get the feel-good factor back into attending school and have been conscious of getting out and speaking to house members.

Tricia and Evelyn made special mention of the S6 champions in attending numerous events linked with the school including attendance at funerals of persons previously linked to the school.

Update from Tricia

Attainment numbers remain in line with previous years in what was the first year that exams returned fully. Appeals are expected to further improve numbers, these won't be known until the end of October 2022.

[Can the slides from the meeting be shared as part of the school minutes distribution?]

There are larger numbers of leavers than previous years with this year expected to be the same. It is believed the pandemic has altered young person's goals resulting in many moving into employment sooner than previous years.

S5 currently have over 20 pupils where English is a 2nd language. The school has additional support and is working in conjunction with West Lothian College to provide ESOL (ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES) classes for young people in this position.

[ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES \(ESOL\) \(west-lothian.ac.uk\)](https://www.westlothian.ac.uk/ESOL)

The number of pupils leaving school and going onto positive destinations remains extremely high.

The school is very active on Twitter and would encourage all parents and carers to follow the schools official twitter account...

[JYHS \(@JamesYoungHS\) / Twitter](https://twitter.com/JamesYoungHS)

The school would encourage all parents and carers to share pupils' achievements so they can be shared and celebrated by the school community.

The schools 40th anniversary celebrations have all gone very well with pupil behaviour at activities being extremely good. Given the nature of the activities it was perhaps expected there may be some 'high-spirited' behaviour, but this was not the case. Well done to all pupils who participated.

Thank you to the PC for supporting the celebrations. Special thanks to Claire Kerr for all her fundraising activities over the years.

West Lothian Councils number one priority in Education is closing the attainment gap as is the schools.

The James Young High Street initiative has been hugely successful. Donations have been excellent and the uptake also.

Evelyn stated it was great that there were no stigmas attached with such an initiative and it was heart-warming just how happy those pupils had been with the items they had been able to receive. It runs every Thursday in September at the Dedridge Baptist Church, 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

S6 Common Room

The school will be unable to reinstate an S6 Common Room this year. The previous room was reused for other purposes and there is no other suitable accommodation available. The school will continue to make alternative arrangements where possible. The school acknowledges that the use of the dining room, library and other classrooms isn't ideal. The preference is to have a dedicated S6 area.

As a possible solution an area has been identified within the school where Study booths/creative collaboration pods could be placed. Similar pods have been deployed at other schools within West Lothian. These pods can cost up to £6,000. The Parent Council are happy to put funds towards this. The school will flesh out the proposal and put it to the parent council.

Sam added that the S6s are looking at fundraising ideas.

Parents Evening / Prizegiving

Douglas stated it was great to be back in the school building for the 40th celebrations and asked what the intention was regards parents' evenings and prizegiving.

Tricia stated that for the time being parent evenings will stay digital. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly in favour of remaining online.

Tricia also stated that Prizegiving will return this school year.

Treasurer Update – Douglas Pirie

[Ask Douglas for final figures]

Parent Council agreed to donate majority of PC funds to the S6 Pods.

This is the final year Douglas will be a parent council member.

Fundraising Update – Sarah Henley

Sarah is now the only remaining member of the Fundraising team and will continue to lead events for the coming year. This will be Sarah's final year on the parent council.

Sarah stated that the likelihood is that most fundraising events will remain online. It's likely that the Balloon Race will be ran again due to its success last year.

Other events which may take place are Online Bingo/Quiz or the Lejog event again.

Running digital events are much less of an overhead but we will still need additional members to assist with events.

AOB

- Point raised regards communication and visibility of PC. Needs to be a defined sense of purpose from the PC.
 - Andy acknowledges that this is an issue and as stated will look to try and increase the visibility of PC activities in the hope of increasing involvement from parents and carers.
- Point raised regards PC presence at events such as the recent S1 evening where there was a teas and coffees offered by the PC. These were often good opportunities to engage with parents.
 - The benefit of such events is unquestioned, it's the ability to staff such events which will always be the issue.

- Question was asked regards the timing of the AGM and would it not be better to have it at the end of a school session.
 - Andy stated the timing was a historical one but agreed an end of year AGM would be better and will look into arranging this.
- Question was asked about resumption of school trips.
 - School is mindful of current strain on family finances and are reassessing which trips can be offered and if planning payments over 2 years is a better option.
 - Many trips are still taking place which have been offered for free.
 - COVID is still having an impact on staff absence. Strains of past 2 years also impacting staff morale across education resulting in staffing events proving more difficult.
 - Trips now require greater risk assessment and are much more of an overhead to those organising.
 - Increase in costs also an issue. Fuel costs are a major issue. For example providing transport from James Young to Deans High School and back again now costs £200.