

**Parent Council Meeting  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, 7pm  
Johnstone High School**

**Parent Council Members**

**Parents**

**Diane Spence (DS) Chair, Paul Cameron (PC) SEC Secretary, Anne Campbell (AC), Martine Wylie (MW), Shirley Ormond (SO), Lorna Hendriks (LH), Kirsten Lyons (KL), Lesley Reid (LR), Jennifer Ballantyne (JB), Gillian Williams (GW), Neil Fowler (NF)**

**Mary Clark (Parent Non Member)**

**Councillors**

**John Hood (JH), Iain McMillan (IMcM)**

**JH Staff**

**Mr Michael Dewar (MD), Mrs Lynne Hollywood (MH), Mr Graham Munro (GM)**

**Renfrewshire Education Dept**

**Mr Peter Macleod (PMacL)**

**Apologies**

**Aileen Brown , Elaine McDonald, Jacqueline Tavendale, Lorraine Dick (JH staff Education Support Manager)**

**Welcome & Apologies**

Diane Spence (DS) Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Previous actions.**

All previous actions have been carried out however school awaiting delivery of staff photos for the website. Some staff had exercised their right not to have their photo included on the site.

**Previous minutes.**

Previous minutes were approved.

**Mr Peter McLeod.**

Diane welcomed Mr Peter Macleod - Director of Children's Services Renfrewshire.

Mr Macleod, thanked the Parent Council for this opportunity to speak to them as he had wished to attend the previous meeting. He highlighted that JHS was a great school and that the development and progress of the school was very high on his agenda. He was looking for the Parent Council to make demands of Renfrewshire Council if they felt there were resources required to sustain JHS improvement.

He outlined some upcoming improvements, including £30K for exterior work on the school & entrance hall. This will lead to future improvements to the fabric/aesthetic of the building.

**Action: If the Parent Council have any suggestions for how Renfrewshire Council can support the development of the school, they should contact DS and she will forward them to PMacL and MD/LH.**

### **Presentation of recent exam results.**

Mr Munro gave a brief presentation of the recent results and progress in the school. He highlighted the broader indices of the new Insight tool which included positive destinations. The results are mixed with room for improvement but there a few areas in which the JHS is above the regional average, for example much higher than average applications to University. He also highlighted the importance of wider achievements.

PC (SEC) expressed some concerns relating to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards within the school and did it have sufficient resources. MD assured that DoE is a priority and will be looked into.

### **Action:**

**MD to plan Insight Presentation for future meeting.**

**MD to write to the Parent Council with an update regarding DoE.**

**PMaCL stated he will ensure DoE will happen and offered to arrange a DoE presentation from Alastair Ewen, Youth Services.**

### **Head Teacher's Report**

MD handed out a copy of the head teacher's report. The PC asked for clarification on various points. MD highlighted that he was always open to the PC if they needed further information.. MD stated that currently he was spending 3 out of 5 days at JHS, and at the moment he can see that continuing. Members of the PC asked questions surrounding staff structural changes. MD explained about the new Faculty Head of Languages appointment and confirmed acting Principal Teacher positions.

Summary School Improvement Plan, Dance studio update, Head Girl& Head Boy appointments, staff volunteers and involvement in the wider community also discussed. PMaCL said he would ensure an update around the Authority Support plan.

### **Action:**

**MD/LH : A summary of the improvement plan to be sent out to all parents.**

**Mr Macleod suggested a School Resources presentation could be given to the Parent Council at a future meeting e.g. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec with key milestones, targets and accountability.**

### **Parent Council Constitution/ Parent Council**

DS: The draft constitution had been sent out by email prior to the meeting and hoped that people had had an opportunity to read it.

MW: point 9: has a typo "aow"

DS: Following a recruitment initiative from JHS the parent council has 21 potential new members. Including the PC existing members, 2 places are available for new members. JH stepped down from the Parent Council increasing places to 3.

Following a brief discussion it was decided to use geographical location as a method of allocating these last spaces, as the hopefully this would help to get a good mix in the PC and better representation from all the associated primary schools.

It was highlighted that any parent from the school can attend a parent council meeting as an observer.

**Action:**

**DS to make required changes to the constitution.**

**MD/LH: to suggest co-opted staff members for Parent Council.**

**LH/DS: to recruit new parent members on associated primary school basis. DS to inform applicants.**

**School Publicity/PR**

The importance of good publicity was highlighted especially in attracting new pupils to the school and to counter some of the recent bad publicity. The school continues to promote positive stories about the JHS. The Gazette has published a few positive stories. The school media group is running, at the moment the pupils are represented by the Head boy and Girl. Positive stories can come from the school staff and pupils but parents also need be looking for stories especially as young people might be reluctant to put themselves forward.

PMaL suggested that Renfrewshire Council's Comms team could send a rep to speak to the JHS media team to offer help with publicity, strategy suggestions for collecting celebrating achievement stories. The PC thought that this was a good idea.

Suggested stories included refurbishment of the school entrance, the Dance Studio, the new Head boy and Girl.

**Action:**

**Organise a talk/presentation from Renfrewshire Council's Comms team to JH media group.**

**Facebook/ website.**

LH has met with Mr Carey re the school website to progress the points highlighted in the Parent Council report on the site.

LH has concerns about the content of the school Facebook page in that it may be open to inappropriate comments from followers. The page content should be restricted to announcements and notices.

**Future Parent Council meetings dates.**

MD issued a list of suggested meeting dates.

Parent Council agreed dates.

7 Dec 2015, 25 Jan 2016, 29 Feb 2016, 25 April 2016, (23 May 2016), suggested date for the AGM, 20 June 2016.

**AOB**

**Pupil milling area and outside shelter.**

MW: expressed concern that with the new dance studio there will be no milling and sheltered area for the pupils. MD Highlighted that there are areas within the main school like the entrance hall that are used for this purpose. PMaL suggested that school will look at alternatives.

**Action: JHS to provide options on alternatives.**

### **Renfrewshire Council Quality Awards**

PMaL: Highlighted that the Renfrewshire Council Quality Awards and the Parent Council/School could nominate Teachers, Pupils. The deadline is 19th September. GM had put in three nominations. PC (SEC) suggested that these nominations could potentially be positive news stories.

**Action: Update**

### **Transport Links**

MW raised the issue of the lack of a direct public bus service to Johnstone High and the Hub available to pupils from the villages and local communities. MW expressed her concern regarding pupil safety while walking to and from school, especially as pupils take shortcuts to school which are often quieter routes, which can make them more vulnerable particularly on dark winter days. MW suggested that all pupils should have the option to travel to school and the Hub on a direct bus route. She highlighted incidents of strangers approaching pupils and offering lifts last year and an assault which occurred on the cycle path near Morrisons.

JH mentioned his local area has had issues with McGill's bus service to school.

MW suggested Renfrewshire Council revisit the current transport model in conjunction with McGill's buses. PMaL/MD agreed to look into this matter further.

### **Actions**

PMaL/MD to identify current bus routes that service the school from all villages and communities where pupils travel to JH and highlight missing routes.

PMaL/MD to identify the relevant person(s) within the Council and invite them to our next PC meeting to further discuss.

### **Road Show Primary Schools**

MD/LH: Highlighted upcoming "road shows" in Primary Schools.

**Cllr IMcM** complimented the Parent Council on its positive attitude and he was glad he had attended. He is keen to attend future meetings. A concern was a lack of representation from certain associated areas and primary schools.

DS said we hoped that the geographical selection would go some way towards rectifying this.

DS (Chair) thanked everyone for attending and in particular Cllrs **John Hood, Iain McMillan and Mr Peter Macleod**.

**Next meeting 26th October 7.00 pm**