

**Parent Council Meeting
Mon 26th Oct 2015, 7pm
Johnstone High School**

Parents

Parent Council Members

Diane Spence (DS) Chair, Paul Cameron (PC) SEC Secretary, Anne Campbell (AC), Aileen Brown (AB), Kirsten Lyons (KL), Shirley Ormond (SO), Neil Fowler (NF), Lesley Reid (LR), Jennifer Ballantyne (JB), Martine Wylie (MW), Gillian Williams (GW), Susan Gregson (SG), Andy Steel (AS), Elaine Gray (EG), Jacqueline Tavendale (JT)

JH Staff

Mr Michael Dewar (MD), Mrs Lynne Hollywood (MH), Mick Fulton (MF), Kit Gilbert (KG)

Renfrewshire Council

Alastair Ewen, Youth Service Manager

Apologies:

Lorna Hendriks, Elaine McDonald, Cllr John Hood (JH),

Welcome

Diane Spence (DS) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DS in particular welcomed Alastair Ewen from Renfrewshire Council, Youth Services Manager, new PC members Susan Gregson, Andy Steel, Elaine Gray and new co-opted staff member Mick Fulton to the meeting.

Everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members.

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes were approved.

Previous Actions

All previous actions carried out.

Note:

School resources presentation is planned for PC meeting Mon 7th Dec.

School media team met with Renfrewshire Comms team representative on Thurs 22nd Oct to discuss approaches to using local media. This was positively received and MD/LH will check the school media team are aware of deadline dates for local media, including the Gryffe Advertiser.

Teacher Mrs Barry is through to the next stage of the Renfrewshire Council Quality Awards. A film crew will interview her at school.

Milling area: LH suggested that rather than temporary sheltered areas the school could purchase modular seating/tables which will be used in the assembly hall. These units are more suitable than the existing chairs used in the hall. This was discussed and positively received.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Alastair Ewen (AE), Youth Service Manager: Renfrewshire Council

(AE) gave a presentation around DofE and the Council's aspirations within Renfrewshire and JHS. Across the schools in Renfrewshire the aim is to increase from 200 to 750 pupils completing awards in the next 4 years. The target for JHS would be 60 awards completed.

The local authority has funding of £30K for all secondaries for extra DofE equipment. JHS would receive £3800. (AE) is applying for further funding to support pupils who come from areas of deprivation. Currently the Bronze enrollment fee is £40 although if a young person comes from a less affluent background the fee would be waived.

Demand is always high for DofE and is usually oversubscribed. Currently the Bronze award 2014-15 is full and running well. A DofE bronze group 2015-16 has been agreed and can offer 28 participants, (4 groups of 7 young people) an opportunity to complete an award. This is an increase in numbers from 16 to 28, due to additional personnel in the voluntary team supporting the award.

Silver is less defined but the hope is that there will be 10 participants from current 16 Bronze. Gold group will be established if enough silver participants from 2014-15 complete and wish to progress. A minimum number of 4 participants are required for a Gold award to be viable within JH. Participants can continue to work on their award up until they are twenty five years old. (AE) also stated there is scope for 3 young people within the school, undertaking silver, to become young Duke of Edinburgh's Award leaders (SCQF level 5 qualification).

(MD) suggested the PC members could help with the EDofE support as this is often a barrier to completion of awards for young people. EDofE is where participants input their progress into the DofE system. If a parent was interested in supporting EDofE they would be required to go through the disclosure process and receive some training.

(KG) stated when DofE is advertised within JHS it is usually very oversubscribed and discussed the need to resolve a method of selection. It was thought interview might put some people off. (AE) highlighted that volunteering is often a stumbling block with DofE awards. He advised often there are good opportunities within the school for volunteering. (PC) asked does DofE run information sessions for parents? KG said yes they have done in the past and could be done again.

(AE) & (KG) confirmed a DofE meeting for the new bronze group will be held on 18th Nov 15.

(DS) thanked (AE) for his presentation and thanked AE/MD/LH/KG for their swift action in delivering a bronze group for 2015-16.

Action:

Any interested parents wishing to support EDofE should contact DS.

Transport links

There were no representatives from the transport company able to attend our meeting. (MD) spoke on their behalf and outlined the schools position. He discussed the allocation of spaces for local villages and privileged passes on school buses.

Information about the school transport can be seen on Renfrewshire Council's website, including information about privilege passes. (SO) highlighted that some Lochwinnoch pupils are not able to get on the buses. The buses are meant to go at 8.23, but some are going too early and not full.

(LH) said the school had been in contact with the company about this but asked if parents could report issues to the school on a day to day basis to ensure this problem is resolved.

(MD) showed the safe walking route from Kilbarchan to school on a map.

(MW) suggested the safe route looks at road safety but does not take into account personal safety. The current public transport to the Sports Hub is poor. Public transportation to the hub had been in the original Council proposal for the Hub but had not been realised once it was built.

(MD) stated the school could only comment on school transport issues, public transport is not a school issue. He suggested if the Parent Council wishes to pursue the Hub public transport issue they need to contact the local Councillors.

Following on the theme of transport and walking to school, (NF) asked if it would be possible to get lockers for the children especially if it is raining on the way to school. (KG) stated it's a physical space issue, and that lockers are not viable as a result.

Head Teacher's Report

Topics covered: Staffing, Primary School Road Shows, Information Evening event, Dance Studio, iSave, Education Equality Awards, Authority Support Plan meeting, School Improvement, School website and online calendar, JHS media group, Skills Development Scotland and Community Police (copy of Head Teacher's report issued).

The opening of the dance studio has been delayed and now due to open 16th of November. However P7 parents will still be able see the dance studio in progress at the Open Evening on the 3rd Nov.

Primary School Road Show events: 3 out of our 7 associated primary schools so far have been visited by members of SMT and senior pupils. (LH) stated feedback had been very positive. (KL) discussed some feedback that she was aware of regarding the senior pupil's presentations. Feedback from parents at Kilbarchan Primary suggests that the school should emphasise the balance between vocational skills and academic achievement. A suggestion was made that parents at the road shows may wish to hear from JHS parents too. LH said she would take these suggestions forward at future presentations.

(EG) raised a concern around P7 transition from non associated primary schools.

(LH) explained that JHS cannot actively promote JHS to non associated primary schools however pupils are supported and included in transition once a placing request has been made in January.

Action

(LH) said she would discuss transition from non associated primaries with DHT Joanne Sturgeon.

(SO) suggested that Parent Council members could offer to come along to the Open Information Evening event on the 3rd Nov to informally speak to P7 parents. A positive response and offers of help received.

MD/LH very happy to accept offer.

Action

(DS) to arrange a group of parent members to attend Open Information Evening event and coordinate with LH.

INSIGHT

KG gave a presentation about Insight.

Insight is a data analysis tool designed for secondary schools and local authorities to identify success and areas where improvements can be made, with the ultimate aim of making a positive difference for pupils in the senior phase.

Full Insight information is not publicly available however some information is available on the Parent Zone Site. (National Parent Forum).

Departments are using the data to identify trends in attainment in correlation with Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and to improve their approaches to raising attainment and closing the attainment gap. This is the first year of data and it has highlighted an attainment coming from aIMD 1 and 2 are not performing as well as pupils from SIMD 7 -9. The school is clear that this gap must be closed but not at a cost to the top 30% performing pupils.

The initiative from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) that JHS is due to pilot in Jan 2016 should also have a positive impact on closing this gap. JHS is currently working on the details and aims for this initiative along with (SDS).

(LH) stated at Senior Management meetings and throughout the school "aspiration" is increasingly a feature of staff and learner discussions.

Actions:

Parents can look at Insight information on Parent Zone. Search for Insight, Parent zone, Education Scotland, My School.

(MD) to plan a further Insight presentation, at a future meeting, to share what actions are planned in JHS as a result of the information obtained from Insight.

Senior Phase Curriculum.

LH shared a document regarding the Senior Phase Curriculum. This was the output from a working group of secondary head teachers and officers discussing ways to improve the senior phase curriculum so that it better meets the changing needs of all students, as more are choosing to stay on at school to S6. Initial observations on advantages and disadvantages on the current and proposed structures were shared. A full consultation would need to take place and the earliest any change could be introduced would be Aug 2017.

Action:

(LH) asked parent members if they could send any comments or feedback re senior phase curriculum to her by Wed 28th Oct if they wished, to enable her to report at forthcoming HT meeting.

DS thanked everyone for attending meeting.

Next Meeting Mon 7th December 7pm