

James Gillespies High School School Council Meeting

Tuesday 2 October 2007, 8 pm

Minutes

Present:

Alex Wallace
Alpana Mair
Ann Henderson
Anne Steele
Bev Boon
Chris McKinnell
Ewan Klein
Jim Rodger

John Forsyth
Karina Kodymowska
Kate Katagiri
Marilyn Jackson
Marilyne Maclaren
May Livsey
Nick Hughes
Nigel Goddard

Paul Godzik
Richard Dietrich
Sheena Purdom
Su Clark
Tom Macintyre
and others – please notify
ngoddard@inf.ed.ac.uk

1. **Minutes from the Parent Forum meeting** of 4th september 2007 were approved noting the factual amendments that had been previously forwarded.

2. Matters arising

- it was confirmed that Chris McKinnell and Su Clark would be the trust representatives.
- Alex reported that the proforma for subgroup reports had been forwarded to mies-nigel would check if this had happened. **action: nigel**

3. Headteacher's report

1 school improvement plan

the main areas have been covered in the newsletter but the main areas to highlight are that areas chosen are in line with ASL act (copies of which were available on the night). Children that are not achieving their full potential will be mentored by senior staff. The QIP for the school has been sent to the council for approval.

Another document was tabled "A Key to the teenage years" which parents were asked to feedback on **action: all**

2 school review in November

This is to take place 20th to 22nd November and is a review by City of Edinburgh and not HMI. This is a pilot whereby it is a proportionate review and the two main areas that have been negotiated are teaching and learning and leadership for learning. 4 departments will be reviewed in detail with a six point scale from excellent to satisfactory.

3 budget

Currently there is an overspend of £ 81k and a vast majority of this is attributed to energy costs outwith the schools control. This issue has been raised with Ian Shaw. A £21k clawback this year; this represents 40% of budget for books and resources.

It was also agreed that the nominated reps would meet with the headmaster at a time out with the school council to discuss relevant issues regarding the budget and that these issues could then be raised at the school council meetings.

action : all elected members and headmaster

4. Alternative timetable

Alex commented that a review had already been carried out in school regarding the alternative timetable in the previous academic year. There had been an overwhelming 100% staff and student preference to revert back to trips/ activities organised by the school and this is why notification of some trips were sent out to parents as these have to be planned well in advance.

It was agreed that a report would be produced by the headmaster which would go on the website.

There was a short feedback session from a member of staff at swalabanzi and the progress that has been made to date. a soup kitchen has been set up which feeds 120 children and ensures that they attend school; spartans have been across to provide some training. 6 additional schools are now getting supported. they now also have access to 20 computers. A cheque of £..... was presented to rep from for the project from the outgoing PTA.

miscellaneous

headmaster informed the group that the usher hall was unavailable this year due to refurbishment and that the school had been unable to secure another venue so that the Christmas concerts would take place over two days, 12th and 13th December.

4.Financial report

The treasurer feed back that all the paper work to set up a bank account had been completed and that cheque book would be issued shortly. a cheque had also been presented to the south Africa project from some of the funds remaining from last year; the remaining funds would be transferred. Nick fed back that there is a form to complete when requesting funding from the school council

5.Subgroup reports

S2 parent group

a group of about 15 parents had met. issues raised were:

- communication re after school activities
- alternative timetable arrangements
- standard grades- choices and timetabling
- homework policy- teacher and subject variation

nigel advsed that all subgroups should submit reports prior to the meetings

S1 group

have not met but a meeting has been planned for 6th november.

building subgroup

since the preparation of the report the group has been informed after change of government meant that the funds that had been expected for the school were no longer available and the council representatives would be meeting with Scottish government. previously there had been an email petition and the group were hoping to set up similar campaign again. Anne expressed concern about the negative publicity that Gillespies was receiving - it was important that the children did not pick up on any issues that would make them feel like they were getting a "second class education"

Events sub-group

the festive fun event was the next main item of work for the events group- members were encouraged to join the events group to offer support. Mies had emailed also to the parent body informing them of the groups that they could engage in.

Communications Subgroup

in addition to the report submitted the group were going to produce a summary sheet to go out to parents and on the back of this would also be promotion of the festive fun event.

action: John

6. Room bookings

as per report

7. diary planning

as per report

8. AGM planning

as per report

9. Consultation :parental involvement

the chair highlighted the documents that had been highlighted in the report for consultation. any comments could be feedback to the group .

action: all

10. AOB

Su Clark asked the parent body for support to send flowers to one of the schools

caretakers who had been very unwell. the parent body supported this request.

11. date of next meeting

6 November 2007