

# Minutes of Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council AGM Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Present:** Barry Graham, David Dillon, Mark Blount, Ray Fulton, Alice Bainbridge, Caroline O'Hara, Sharon Young, Lynn Ross, Darren Burns, Donna Maxwell, Caroline Hamilton, Jillian Maxwell, Natalie Hare (Clerk).

**Pupils present:** Jack Roberts, Hannah Graham, Eleanor Burns, Emily Kennedy.

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies</b> Claire Wilson, Sarah Hannah, Lynne Maxwell, Rob Paterson, Dawn Stirk, Audrey Murray, Sarah McDiarmid, Kerry Finn, Gail Head, Pam Fergusson.</p> <p><b>Welcome</b> MB welcomed everyone to the AGM.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting</b> Minutes approved with no amendments.</p>	
3	<p><b>Head Boy (Jack Roberts), Head Girl (Hannah Graham)</b> Working closely with the Pupil Council helping S1 pupils elect their representative and Depute, one from each class. Speeches were given to the class proceeded by a vote.</p> <p>Previously, the Pupil Council meetings were held every 6 weeks during extended registration. This has now been revised to every 3 weeks to enable a continuous flow of ideas.</p> <p>Representatives are encouraged to raise any concerns or issues. Recently, the Pupil Council has worked together to resolve the length of lunch queues (with the aid of prefects), and the standard of transportation which has also been resolved.</p> <p>Currently focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Merit and De-merit system. Proposed ending Merits but to continue using De-merits. Looking at replacing Merits with an alternative that will provide a consistent way for teachers across the School to provide positive feedback.</li> <li>• S1 pupil's permission to walk into Thornhill after the October Holidays was discussed. Concerns were raised of pupil safety and the potential increase of queues (as pupil's time is limited). Local businesses have been informed, parents have been consulted DD to address the Pupil Council with the results and Alison Kennedy, Head Cook is to be invited to discuss menus and quantity of food available at School to reduce pupil numbers in the town.</li> <li>• Mental Health, Pupil Council promotion within the School, and any issues arising from class feedback will be looked at throughout the year.</li> </ul>	DD

## 4 Presentation on My World of Work by Eleanor Burns and Emily Kennedy

### What is MWOW?

Website developed with Skills Development Scotland to support career planning and career management skills under four main themes:

- Self (personality, values, interests)
- Strengths (skills, talents, qualities)
- Horizons (explore world of work, training, learning)
- Networks (how they can help)
- Useful for school pupils (from primary), young adults, parents, Teachers

### What do Ambassadors do?

- Training in how to use the MWOW website
- Improve knowledge in all areas of the website
- Deliver input to younger students
- Assist/Deliver at Parent's Evenings along with Careers Adviser

### Input to younger students:

- October 2017- introductory lesson with S1 classes looking at their skills and what careers could potentially match them
- November/December 2017-2 lessons with S2 classes focusing on research and decision making for options/career paths
- Dates TBC- assisting S3 with career management skills and choosing options; working with primary classes as required

Each child will have an individual login to build a personal profile. This will aid writing personal statements and CV's in conjunction with Careers Adviser, Peigi Brough.

A parent's guide is also included on the website and parents are encouraged to access this to support their child and get the most out of the website.

A booklet 'Future Me!' and leaflet 'The help you need for the career you want' can be obtained from the Careers Adviser, PB.

### Publicity

A focus group has been formed to look at how School news is shared with parents.

It has been decided that the Term Newsletter previously used is to be stopped as information was often no longer current by the time of publication and was not an effective use of time and resources to produce.

In place of a Newsletter information will be directly uploaded to the School web site possibly in the style of a Blog or Twitter feed, alongside Social media forums such as Facebook. The existing website is not currently viable for this option, however, the aim is to have an alternative live by January 2018.

Concern was raised that not all parents have access to multimedia and this will be considered by the focus group.

### Appendix A

Copy of the letter written by BG to parents outlining the reasons for this decision and future plans. Copies of this were circulated during the meeting.

**Head Teacher's Report****Staffing Update**

Carmen Gordillo, teaching Spanish and Gyllian Dickson, working in the Art Department have both joined the Academy part-time.

**WH ELC**

- The ELC pupils had a successful walk to Thornhill Parish Church and are enjoying a weekly Wellie Wednesday or Forest Friday, learning about different types of trees
- All of the new pupils have settled into the ELC well
- Mrs Smith is on course to complete one-to-one meetings with parents by the end of term
- Pupils in the ELC are accessing many different areas across the school including the use of computers in the Design and Technology Department and a weekly yoga session in the general purpose room
- The toothbrush programme has started encouraging all the children to brush their teeth and wash their hands properly

**Primary**

- The recent Scholastic Book Fair from ELC to P7 raised an estimated £1500 in commission, which will be put back into the primary library. Thanks to parents and members of the Parent Council for their assistance
- Zoolab visited the school for pupils in ELC, Primary 2, Primary 4 and Primary 6. The topics of nocturnal animals and the rainforest linked in with the Es and Os being covered. Thanks to the Parent Council for funding this visit
- Twenty Wallace Hall pupils participated well in the Triathlon held at Sanquhar Academy, jointly organised by Active Schools and Triathlon Scotland

**Secondary**

- Over seventy S1 pupils took part in a successful three day teambuilding trip to Belmont
- Congratulations to Olivia Macklin, Josie Harkness, Luke McKay and John McKay who won the regional Enterprise in Maths competition held recently in Kirkcudbright Academy. As the reigning champions, Wallace Hall will host the competition next year
- Twenty five pupils visited the World War 1 Battlefields of France and Belgium. Pupils demonstrated respect and interest throughout
- Deri Ronan achieved the highest marks in Scotland for her Advanced Higher Modern Studies exam. Deri will be presented with a cheque and a trophy at Glasgow University to recognise her achievement

<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>At Marks first meeting as interim Chairman in March 2017, he was pleased with the attendance of 23 and was assisted by a presentation by Morag Walker.</p> <p>The invaluable work carried out by the PTC in raising funds through events such as the Burns Supper, Christmas Craft fair and cards, as well as the sponsored bounce assist to finance trips providing new experiences and equipment to various departments to aid learning.</p> <p>The PTC also enables parents to discuss which policies are being undertaken and the direction the school is heading in It gives the parents and all involved a chance to discuss which policies are being undertaken and the direction the school is heading towards. Additionally supplying them with information they can discuss with their own children.</p> <p>As well as joining the various subgroups on important issues, all present were encouraged to participate as much as possible and raise any points they may have, no matter how trivial they may seem.</p> <p>A variety of presentations have been held over the last 7 months on topics ranging from the new school house system, equity funding to school results. These have been invaluable in giving an insight into the running of the school from a teachers and students perspective.</p> <p>Issues such as lack of sporting fixtures, Easter School and staffing were discussed, and the AOCB section allows parents and teachers to discuss decisions.</p> <p>Mark thanked BG for his guidance on topics to discuss, AB as Secretary, CM, DS as treasurer, MW for the talk in March, as well as teachers and parents for giving up their time. Mark praised the School and encouraged all to continue building on its excellence.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report 2016-2017</b></p> <p>Although unable to attend, the treasurer DS provided a set of accounts for both the Primary School and the Academy.</p> <p><b>Primary school</b></p> <p>The accounts for the period up to 30th March 2017 show a deficit of £220.67. Two fundraising events were not held this year resulting in less income being raised than the previous year. However, the £4115.29 raised from four fundraising events was higher than the same events held the previous year.</p> <p>The amount raised and the bank balance at the start of the financial year have paid for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health week activities</li> <li>• Christmas presents,</li> <li>• P7 leaver dictionaries,</li> <li>• Toy's for the playgroup and nurture room.</li> <li>• Transport for all the Primary School trips.</li> </ul> <p>The primary funds being carried forward to the next financial year stand at £4469.31.</p>	

	<p><b>Academy</b></p> <p>The balance of £2841.06 has been transferred from the Academy bank account into the primary PTA bank account creating one account for both.</p> <p>No income or expenses have been recorded for this financial year.</p> <p><b>The RFC funding</b></p> <p>The Ring fence council funding for 2016-2017 was received after the year end so will show in the 2017-2018 accounts.</p> <p><b>Appendix B</b> Copy of the Wallace Hall Primary School Parent Council, Income and Expenditure Statement circulated at the meeting.</p>	
8	<p><b>Confirmation of Office bearers</b></p> <p><b>Chairperson</b> Mark Blount. DD nominated, JM seconded.</p> <p><b>Vice Chairperson</b> Position remains vacant, MB will ask again in the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> DS agreed to continue as Treasurer. MB nominated, DD seconded.</p> <p><b>Committee Members</b> Sharon Young, Lynn Ross, Caroline O'Hara, Jillian Maxwell, Carol Hamilton, Darren Burns, Donna Maxwell, Pam Fergusson and Claire Wilson. MB nominated RF and JM seconded. Ray Fulton, MB nominated and GM seconded.</p> <p><b>Subgroup Chairpersons</b> Learning and Teaching – TBC Car Park and Road Safety - David Dillon Parent Council Promotion - Jillian Maxwell Christmas Craft Fair - David Dillon Primary Events - Claire Wilson School Trips - Discontinued ICT - Ray Fulton</p>	MB
9	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Topic suggestions or questions for upcoming meetings to BG or MB.</p> <p>The Christmas Craft Fair date confirmed as 9<sup>th</sup> December. Donations for raffle prizes and a Bottle stall requested. Further ideas to increase the potential funds to be raised on the day welcomed.</p>	
10	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November</p>	

# Appendix

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## Appendix A

A copy of the letter written by BG to parents outlining the reasons for this decision and future plans.

## Appendix B

Wallace Hall Primary School Parent Council, Income and Expenditure Statement.

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## Appendix A

6th October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

During the past few months we have been discussing the matter of how we send news to parents. Whilst the newsletter was a fantastic publication it took a huge amount of work to put together. More importantly, however, when you received it there were many articles which were 'old news'. This was unavoidable in a termly publication. We want to get the news out to you much more quickly.

Our plan is to start a blog on our website where each news article will be put on there, as and when we get it, thus bringing the news to you when it is still news. For the next few months you will see news articles by scrolling down on the home page until you see the 'Latest News' heading. Here you will see the very latest news articles which you can click on to view. There is also a 'more news' button which you can click on to see what else has been happening.

Whilst we have been discussing the blog we realised that we don't have the capacity within our current website to do everything we would wish to do. We are now looking at alternatives and will be working on that up to the end of the year. We are aiming for this to be live from January 2018.

I personally am very sorry to see the end of the newsletter. It has been one of the highlights for me during my 9 years in post and I know the standard of it is as high as I have seen from any other school. This is thanks in whole to Caroline Menzies who has worked tirelessly to produce and develop it over the years. A huge amount of effort goes into the gathering of news, the photo editing and the placing of articles to get the most out of each edition. Having said this, I do think that the more important issue of getting the news out timely is more important to you as parents.

If you are interested in taking part in a working group to develop the new website from a parent's point of view we would be very happy to hear from you. In the first instance please contact Mrs Diane Jarvie on the main school telephone number. Thanks in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

Barry Graham  
Head Teacher

## Appendix B

INCOME	£	£
	2016-17	2015-16
<b><u>From Events</u></b>		
Sponsored Bounce	1572.90	727.00
Halloween Disco	505.26	536.80
Christmas Cards	1046.00	909.25
Craft Fair	991.13	419.00
Valentine Disco	0.00	1012.11 *
End of term disco	0.00	368.40
Clothes Swap	0.00	250.50
<b><u>Other sources</u></b>		
RFC	0.00	289.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4115.29</b>	<b>4512.06</b>
EXPENDITURE	£	£
	2016-17	2015-16
Playground toys	147.84	0.00
Fundraising Expenses	1649.2	1297.23
School Books	464.52	0.00
Buses-School trips	930.00	0.00
Golden Time	304.25	26.68
Nurture Room	100.00	0.00
School Dictionaries	223.65	386.43
Membership & Insurance	135.00	118.00
Christmas presents	92.73	286.01
Health Week & Children in Need	243.92	199.71
Christmas lunch	44.85	0.00
Willow Structure	0.00	1434.00
Admin Costs	0.00	29.01
Other (AGM snacks)	0.00	21.70
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4335.96</b>	<b>3798.77</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-220.67</b>	<b>713.29</b>

### Notes \*

Valentine Disco income for 2015-2016 includes £582.78 from previous year

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