

Minutes of Wallace Hall  
2-18 Parent Council Meeting  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
7pm via Teams

**Present:** Louise Cochran, Caroline O’Hara, Christine Carson, Lynne Maxwell, Sharon Young, Melanie Halliday, Barry Graham, Euan Mack, Anna Meredith, Cathy Mackenzie, Darren Burns and Jillian Maxwell

**Apologies:** Charlene Fry

Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone and explained the meeting was being recorded for the minutes and the logistics of how the meeting on teams will work.

Welcomed C Mackenzie to WH PC and congratulated Mr and Mrs Mack on the birth of their child.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

- One alteration from LM – Learning and Teaching, point 6 under sub-groups. Survey has not been completed, the draft content/questions on the survey was discussed by all not just reviewed by LM, as stated in the minutes. Draft survey was not finalised and survey did not go live due to Covid.
- DB – query on HT report needed clarity on the recruitment process and what being fully involved meant, felt that the reality of the PC involvement didn’t match what the minute implied. Felt that the time and effort by members of the PC reading applications, job descriptions it was actually tokenistic by the school, felt like PC were lead to believe there would be a long list to short leat, when he felt the PC was actually presented with the short listed applications. Felt that the HT was only looking for comments and that wasn’t what he felt the PC had signed up for, apologised to the two incumbents to the post but this was the only opportunity he had. He felt that PC are often involved in the recruitment of Senior Leaders in school and that he wished it to be noted his disappointment in the process not the result.
- LC listened to the recording from the previous meeting, it was for DHT post primary and secondary and how PC to be involved BG asked, it was to advertised primary and secondary, PC agreed they were to be involved, BG asked for one or two volunteers for the interviews, job description to look over before going back to the authority, LC, LM and DB agreed to look at these documents, the applications and the job specification and to share their thoughts with BG. There was nothing said about being involved in shortlisting or leating.
- BG – explained the schools policy on leating and who it states would be involved in the leating process.
- SY expressed that she is quite happy with the process and her understanding was exactly what LC and BG has stated tonight and that she is perfectly happy with the process.
- CO’H agreed that she felt exactly the same as SY and that what she was lead to believe was going to happy was what happened and feels like it shouldn’t be said it was the whole PC concern.
- LC said she will alter the minutes to reflect the recording.

Minutes approved by SY

Seconded by CO'H

### 3. Correspondence

- Minutes secretary resignation from T TB unable to continue due to other commitments. LC has deleted and destroyed all relevant documentation.
- Connect Scotland and Insurance – lapsed in July. Email received on 11<sup>th</sup> September which has gone out to all PCs regarding the membership and Insurance 2020/2021 this year D&G Council have purchased a three star connect membership including Public Liability for all PCs we don't need to pay anything. Insurance cover is provided on the basis that members follow current Covid guidelines and hired equipment is not covered this year. Contact details are to be updated on Connect but LC feels this would be better left until after the AGM.
- Letters – Parents inclusion network and parents' forum, best start grant form social security Scotland which has already been put onto school sm. Letter from Rotary club eager to offer help and support when required. They are keen to keep the competitions etc going.
- BG – rotary have been very supportive over the years
- CM been in touch re rotakids club but events need to be risk assessed

### 4. Updates March – September

- Dux prize – LC to come to school to present medals on 21/09/2020, thanks to DB for sorting medals and CC to get the £50 gift card.
- First Aid – all who completed the first aid course passed and receipts to those who requested them.
- T-shirts – no update on this yet
- Flowers – purchased for SMcD and delivered by LM
- P7 ties – was agreed and message was sent to all P7 pupils. BG thanked PC for this gesture.
- Home schooling – PC was involved to discuss issues arising and coming up with solutions. BG passed on his thanks for the feedback during this time.
- S6 Leavers Memories Book – A message was included from LC as chairperson. BG felt it was important to mark the 6<sup>th</sup> years leaving. It was a great publication put together by C Menzies.
- Bus (213) – Gatelawbridge bus being removed and bus being used elsewhere and parents not being informed until much later and some not at all. LC contacted A Wood councillor about why and if it would be reinstated in the future, he checked and finally he got an email from D Kirkpatrick, transportation manager, the decision to take this off was due to an increase of pupils from Auldgirth/Kirkton area and this was to ensure the entitled pupils got a bus. This will be reviewed termly. Impressed with the quick response from the authority. EM said school was only informed the day before school started and school tried to contact as many parents as they could.

### 5. Sub committees/Development reports

- Primary Fundraising report - See appendix A
- Secondary Fundraising – Nothing to report, everything halted due to lockdown.
- Learning and Teaching - everything was halted due to lockdown, some very good resources from PC forum should we go back into a lockdown. Keeping children engaged with teams, maybe homework could be issued via teams. CM informed PC that primary are working on progressing with teams. EM stated that teams are being introduced to S1 and are being used from S2-6.
- Funding bid from primary – see appendix B
- Communication and Development – nothing to report.

## 6. Pitches update

- Meeting has taken place on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via teams with Councillor Woods, Amey and PPP staff and Council representative. Drainage report was discussed.
- Way forward is newly designed drainage system. Needs to be designed before going to tender and existing capacity needs to be checked.
- Timescale – Design by August and out to tender by 3 companies, reconstruction Spring 2021 pitches will be out of action for 1 year.
- A Wood contacted PC to say cost of pitches could be an issue, maybe PC could become a charitable organisation to get money from elsewhere. He also met with M Baillie to draw up plans for minimal drainage which would cost £10-15K or £20-25K
- BG thanked PC for perseverance, has been a long project and school are delighted that we are continuing this campaign. PE would be happy with 10 months a year that can be use by the 3-18 school and have competitive sport once again at WH.
- DB agreed with BG about this project and wants to see what the middle option would look like for us. We are limited with our options due to council funding.
- LC will contact A Wood for middle option, and contact Mark Baillie for an update before our next meeting.

## 7. Treasurer's report

- Please see appendix c
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- a) Chasing L Beck at the authority re the allowance as we have 2 years outstanding
- b) J Maxwell has been added as a signature on the account
- c) Address has been updated on the account
- d) A couple of things in the end of year accounts but they are almost ready

## 8. Head Teachers report

See appendix D

- DB asked if there was an indication of what exams will be held next year.
- No official statement from the government at the moment.
- Chair and Head Teacher have agreed to meet more often between meetings.

## 9. A.O.C.B

No items raised

Date of next meeting – AGM Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7pm.

## **Primary Fundraising**

This is what we have thought about for the next two terms and we will re-evaluate fundraising after Christmas.

Due to the circumstances we find ourselves in we feel it is impossible to hold a Halloween disco or a Christmas Market and be able to keep everyone safe.

It has been a really tough time for lots of our families and we are conscious of the impact that fundraising will have on some.

We have thought of a few ideas that won't involve an event or mixing of class bubbles etc.

### **Halloween**

- Halloween sweetie cones to be sold after school (maybe under the shelter £2)
- Colouring competition (free will replace the fancy dress usually at the disco)
- Pumpkin competition (free pupils can send in a picture of their pumpkin)

### **Christmas**

A Health & WB Calendar (£5?)

(each month could have a picture, link to a H&WB site, a recipe or activity from a class) to make 2021 a positive year where we think of our own mental health and that of our family and friends.

- Class crafts (£2)
  - Jolly Jam Jar (£1)
  - Book Angels (£2)
  - Christmas Quiz Sheet (50p)
- } This could be a bundle for £5

These are all items that we can do on an order form and send home once we have examples made. These can be quarantined for 72 hours before given out and money can be sent in and quarantined also.

We would also like to continue the tradition of food bank donation especially now that Thornhill have their own food bank. We still feel it is important to do this as our Children get so much out of it.

We won't be anywhere near what we usually make over these two seasons but it will be a start.

Dear Louise

I am writing to request if the parent council would consider funding the following items for the Primary School. I wondered if this could be discussed at the parent council meeting or if you could identify the most appropriate sub-group that I should contact regarding this.

**Microphones and Cameras**

It would be very helpful for all the classes to have a web cam and a free-standing microphone to enable students to see and hear each other in a range of learning experiences supported through Microsoft Teams. Purchasing these devices would enable classes to engage in more interactive approaches for assemblies, sharing learning across classes, online presentations and possibly collaborating with other schools across the cluster and region. I have prepared a quote for this. The listed items (web links below) have been tested in other parts of the school. This would amount to a total of £281.68 (excl. VAT).

Item	Cost	QTY	Subtotal
Microphone	£15.26	7	£106.82
Web Cam	£24.98	7	£174.86
TOTAL			£281.68

<https://cpc.farnell.com/nedis/micdu100bk/usb-microphone-wired-black-grey/dp/CS33700>  
<https://cpc.farnell.com/xiaomi/cmsxj22a/webcam-usb-fhd-inilab-w88s/dp/CS33786?ost=cs33786>

With kind regards,  
Cathy

## Appendix C

### Treasurer's Report

1. Current balance £6744.60
2. Of which, £4646.16 is primary, and £2098.44 secondary
3. Since the end of last financial year (31<sup>st</sup> March 2020) there has been little activity; income from the first aid course £344; expenditure £20, clerks fees, £30 reimburse Louise for flowers to Sarah.
4. Cheque to come off primary = £980.42.
5. Bank: Jillian Maxwell has been added as a signatory. Address has been changed to the school.
6. Need to add Barry Graham as a signatory and remove Dawn Stirk, Alice Bainbridge, Ben Hobman and F. Smyth.
7. Still trying to resolve with Lesley Beck the matter of our PC allowance, which amounts to £250 plus a payment of 0.20 pence per pupil. Last spoke to her 31<sup>st</sup> August. Have had no reply to mid-September email.
8. Will email funding form to Louise/BG.

**Parent Council Report – September 2020****Staffing**

Mrs Anna Meredith has now been appointed as a permanent Depute Head Teacher for the Primary. I would like to welcome Mrs Cathy Mackenzie who will be covering for Mrs Sarah McDiarmid for the next academic year in an Acting Depute Head Teacher capacity. Miss Laura Weir has been appointed as the ELC Manager with Miss Judith Park starting in the next few weeks as Depute Nursery Manager. I am also pleased to welcome Mr Andrew McNay, and Ms Astrid Lyttle to our primary staff, and Miss Jenna Nicol, Miss Jill Edgar and Mrs Eilidh Clingan to our ELC team.

Mr Euan Mack has now been appointed as the permanent Depute Head Teacher for the academy. I would like to welcome Tracy Collins (PT Expressive Arts) who is joining us for a year in an Acting capacity, Mrs Kim McVeigh who will be teaching Science this year and Mrs Linda Jardine (QTVI) and Mrs Anne-Marie Flannighan (Braille Communicator) who are joining us as our team for the visually impaired. Mr Adam Torbett has been appointed Acting PT Pupil Support for Scaur and Mr Euan Laverty has been appointed as Acting PT Support for Learning to work in partnership with Mrs Marchant. We also welcome Miss Claire Ritchie, Miss Nicole Steggles and Mrs Rachel Templeton who have joined our support staff team. Mrs Joy Taylor and Miss Gillian Watret are currently supporting us as teachers through the Restart and Recovery process, and Autism Outreach Support Officers Mr Robert Dickson and Mr Paul Riding will be working in Wallace Hall Academy until October. Mrs Peigi Brough has retired from SDS and we wish her well for the future. Mr Allan Kinley has joined us as our SDS Careers Adviser for this academic session.

**SQA Results**

I am delighted with our pupils' SQA results. I have detailed these in the tables below for your information.

<b>Type of Qualification</b>	<b>20 S4 Results for WHA</b>	<b>20 S4 Results for D&amp;G</b>
3 or more National 5s	77%	66%
5 or more National 5s	65%	47%

<b>Type of Qualification</b>	<b>20 S5 Results for WHA</b>	<b>20 S5 Results for D&amp;G</b>
1 or more Highers	75%	59%
3 or more Highers	51%	40%
5 or more Highers	24%	16%

<b>Type of Qualification</b>	<b>20 S6 Results for WHA</b>	<b>20 S6 Results for D&amp;G</b>
1 or more Advanced Highers	36%	20%

3 or more Advanced Highers	6%	2%
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As a result of Covid-19, pupils were not given the opportunity to sit their examinations in the normal way. Teachers were asked to provide estimates which were then reviewed by the SQA. We are very pleased with the overall results and we are waiting for further information from the SQA which will help us to plan for the 2021 examination diet.

### **Head Boy/Girl Election**

I am delighted to announce that our S6 Office Bearers have been elected as follows: Ted Bowie – Head Boy; Luke McKay – Depute Head Boy; Lois Geddes – Head Girl; Hannah Ogilvie – Depute Head Girl. I would like to thank all the other candidates who applied for the positions.