

DOUGLAS-EWART HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting Held Monday 26th April 2018

Present: H McColm (Chair), J Sloan (Vice-Chair), C Jess (Secretary/Treasurer), M Byrne, D Chang, J Cochrane, R Christie, L Fisher, F Huxtable, A McClymont, K McCormick, F McElrea, L McQuat, H Smith & S Sneddon.

In attendance: A Cowie & J Thin.

H McColm welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced John Thin, Schools Manager, to the group. Discussion followed regarding Mr Cowie's phased retirement and Head Teacher recruitment procedures.

Apologies: A Burnett, F Donald, C Garrity, K Hagmann, J Ho, K Hyslop, Cllr Inglis, Cllr McColm, C Nimmo-Scott & G Plunkett.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of meeting held 26th February approved by L Fisher & J Sloan.

Matters Arising:

- **Transport:** H McColm had emailed Douglas Kirkpatrick with comments from last meeting and Mr Kirkpatrick is now monitoring all 8 services daily. Reports were provided & shared with members but it was felt that there had been more issues than reports showed. The school will monitor the situation and parents will also keep their own logs. These should be sent to HMCC who will forward to DK. It was noted that there has been an improvement in services since Easter.
- **Mindset Events:** The first of these events have taken place and were well received.

Correspondence:

- SPTC had been issued by email.
- HMCC had also emailed members with feedback from S1 parents evening. Parents had requested an S1 meeting earlier in the year. AC to check that this is still in the calendar.
- HMCC will be reviewing the "By Parents, For Parents" section of the website & will send her changes to members for approval.
- HMCC thanked D Chang for representing the PC at the S2 parents evening. No comments received.

Statement of Account – Treasurer: Balance of account is £557.70.

Fundraising: Neither C Nimmo-Scott nor C Garrity were present however H McColm advised that they are planning a hamper fundraiser at the Junior Celebration of Achievement Ceremony in June. Letters will be sent to PC members to advertise the event.

Head Teacher's Report/Q&A:

- AC confirmed an increase in incidents of smoking around school as well as growing concerns over possible drug and alcohol use by youngsters of secondary school age. Police have recently been dealing with an incident involving pupils outside of school. The school is doing all it can to deal with these issues & have held a "Do the Right Thing" session, Driving Safety Day, assemblies & Police dogs in school. DEHS has increasing numbers of pupils facing significant challenges and it was noted that a reduction in services to support young people is making it more difficult for the school to support these pupils without having to resort to exclusion. This increased challenge is however being given considerable thought and appropriate proactive steps will be taken.

Councillor's Report: No Councillors present.

A.O.C.B:

- Mr McKenzie is the Operational Manager in school, through higher paid duties, when Mr Cowie is not in school. AC reported that this is going well.
- It was agreed that the advert for the Head Teacher's position would go live on 1st August however members were keen to make people aware that the role will be coming up before then. AC agreed that this could be advertised on the school website and in local press. PC to provide draft for approval.
- AC advised that the school is currently fully staffed for next year although the ASN post has been re-advertised.
- Money saved on HT salary is being used to fund project work in school.
- The Developing Young Workforce post will continue.

Meeting Closed 9pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th June 2018, 7pm