

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

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

In attendance: A Cowie & M Hyslop.

Apologies: C Adams, A Burnett, F Donald, C Garrity, K Hagmann, J Ho, F Huxtable, D Inglis, C Nimmo-Scott, G Plunkett & S Sneddon.

H McColm welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced M Hyslop, School Support Manager.

Approval of Minutes: H Smith noted that she had given her apologies for meeting held 29th January 2018. C Jess to update. Minutes were then approved by F McElrea & A McClymont.

Matters Arising:

- **Mindset:** The first event will take place on Tuesday 17th February.
- **Transport Response:** The response to H McColm's letter had been distributed to members by email and was discussed. All agreed that their concerns had not been addressed. The school feel that communication links with Stagecoach have slipped and that neither Passenger Transport nor the School are being notified of changes in transport arrangements. D Kirkpatrick is willing to meet with the PC to discuss their concerns. Members agreed that a second letter should be sent, re-iterating our concerns. If we are still not satisfied with the response received Mr Kirkpatrick will be invited to attend a future meeting. It was noted that DEHS are not the only school experiencing issues with Stagecoach.

Correspondence: SPTC had been issued by email. No further correspondence received.

Statement of Account – Treasurer: Balance of account is £607.70

Fundraising: Neither C Nimmo-Scott nor C Garrity were present however H McColm advised that they felt that they were keen to contribute more to the PC and were looking for fundraising ideas. It was suggested that no fundraising was required as pupils arrange their own fundraising events for specific activities and there is a large balance in the account which is not being used however it was felt that fundraising may be better supported if pupils were involved in the organisation. Another idea was to raffle off hampers at parents evenings or do something at school discos/prom.

School Funding: M Hyslop had been invited to talk about school funding. She explained the 3 different budgets, restrictions on how this money can be spent and the formulas used to determine how much each school is allocated. She also spoke about Pupil Equity Funding from the Scottish Government which is used to close the attainment gap and teaching allocations. DGRC budget proposals are available to view online and will be discussed by Councillors on Tuesday 27th February. AC stated that the Douglas-Ewart is consistently under budget due to M Hyslop's excellent management skills. The school has also benefitted from significant Council investment in recent years.

Councillor's Report: No Councillors present.

A.O.C.B: J Sloan had attended a Parent Forum meeting on “Curriculum Pathways”. There are concerns that some pupils are following the wrong pathway. This may be partly due to perception of N4s being of little or no value. D&G Council are looking in to this and also seeking the best way to communicate with parents. An EIS Rep was also at the meeting and was looking to gain support for a 10% pay-rise for teachers. Members felt that this was not so much a pay rise as a catch up following years of below inflation increments. Teachers’ responsibilities have increased, however their pay has not risen to reflect this.

Management Update & Way Forward: Following the last PC meeting A Cowie had put in an official request to enter phased retirement. This request was made with the full backing of the PC. HMcC has since spoken to G Brydson. She advised that John Thin will attend a PC meeting in the Spring to discuss the advertisement of a full time post in the hope of getting a new HT by January 2019. AC to work 3 days at DEHS until the post has been filled. The other 2 days will be deputised. Members felt that this information should be communicated to parents as soon as possible as various rumours are already circulating. AC to issue letter. J Thin to be invited to next meeting.

Meeting Closed 9pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th April, 7pm