

West Calder High School



Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 9 May 2016

Minutes

Present	R Lawton, A Hannah, D Roe, J Sinclair, B Martin, F Wilson, K Haspolat, A Wardlaw, A Fong, G Hunter, S Pryde, L Spencer, I McLeod, A Smith, E Laird, J Fisher, L Grubb, L Quilter
Apologies	C Devoy, A Lyall

Agenda Item	Action Points	Action
Previous Minutes	Proposed by L Spencer and seconded by J Sinclair.	
Matters Arising	Prelims - No decision has been made regarding prelims for the 17-18 session. Discussions are on-going and parents and pupils will be informed in due course.	
Welcome to the new Head Teacher	FW welcomed JF to the school and to her first PC Meeting. Members of the PC introduced themselves. JF thanked the PC and said she was excited about her new post and was very pleased by her first impressions of the school.	
Summary of HMle Feedback	The PC discussed feedback from HMle.	
Pupil Equity Funding	JF informed the PC that the school has been given a budget of £61,200 to help improve the attainment of the most vulnerable pupils. Spending will be scrutinised and JF would like the support and engagement of the PC to help identify what they barriers to attainment are for these pupils. Following discussion it was agreed that transport ie access to affordable transport is a barrier to attainment as pupils are often unable to get to school if they miss the school bus. Transport home can also be a barrier to pupils staying late in school for study classes. Some vulnerable pupils are also intimidated on the school bus. Suggestions made were: the PC to collectively lobby the local councillors for increased/improved bus transport along the A71 directly to Mid/East Calder. Car sharing with other parents to take pupils home. S6 mentors/buddies to be on the buses. Local Councillors to be invited to attend a PC meeting.	PC
Changes to National Qualifications	SQA and the Scottish Government will be making changes to the National Qualifications and there will be reports in the press. Faculty Heads will be keeping up to date with these changes and will keep parents and pupils informed.	
Parental Questionnaire Feedback	A collation of the recent parental questionnaire was issued and discussion followed. JF informed the PC that the school has recently invested in an app that it is hoped will improve communication. AH asked if there was a more suitable way of informing staff that pupils will be absent for a music lessons. LG agreed to investigate this. SQA exams have been held in the Inspired Learning Base and Modern Languages classes due to the timings of some of the longer exams. Holding the exams in this area has allowed them to continue over the morning interval/into lunch time without disrupting candidates or canteen users.	LG
AOB	<p><u>Staffing</u> - LG updated the PC on the current staffing situation. It is not yet known how many probationers will be allocated to the school. Discussion followed with particular regard to the lack of supply staff and HE specialists.</p> <p><u>Sponsored Walk</u> - The PE department will possibly ask for parental assistance with the S1-S3 sponsored walk on Friday 26 May. Those interested should let FW know.</p> <p><u>S1 Transition</u> - This will take place between 13 - 15 June. Enhanced transition is already underway.</p> <p><u>Tutors</u> - Tutors for next session have not yet been allocated.</p> <p><u>Parent Council Forum</u> - LS gave the PC feedback from the recent Parent Council Forum meeting she attended.</p> <p><u>S6 Graduation</u> - It was agreed that this event was a huge success and, following the S6 trip to Blair Drummond, allowed the pupils to finish their time at WCHS on a positive note. The Summer Prom will only be for those pupils who completed their sixth year.</p>	PC
DONM	Monday 19 June at 7pm.	