

Falkirk High School (FHS) Parent Council (PC) Meeting

Wednesday 30th January 2008 at 7 pm in FHS Library

Parents:	Carole Lennie, Amanda Livingstone, Lynn Shirra, Graeme Taylor, David McClements, Lena Bauchope, Lynn Baillie, Emmanuelle Tulle & Chris Glen
Advisors:	Richard Anderson (Rector) and Liz Mitchell & Minetta Lesley (Staff Member)
Visitors:	Jane Clifford & Kevin O'Connor
Chair:	C Ashwood
Clerk:	E Robertson
Apologies:	S Harley

Colin welcomed all to the third meeting of the FHS Parent Council – and wished all present a very happy New Year.

School Uniform (Agenda Item 10) Mrs J Clifford, Depute Rector

The Parent Council's opinion on school uniform was sought. Although no definite decisions had been made by the School a suggestion was that a new School may be a time to look at how to improve on the new schools' school uniform. Staff, pupils, parents and the wider community all has an interest in this issue. Several points were raised:-

- Colour – traditional maroon or black and white or both?
- Style – polo shirts and sweatshirts or blazers for all or any alternative?
- Ruling – is this a dress code or uniform
- Cost factor

J Clifford will report back at a future meeting regarding this topic and thanked all for their helpful comments. Mrs Clifford then left the meeting.

Literacy Strategy (Agenda Item 7) Mr K O'Connor (Head of English & Modern Language)

Mr O'Connor has been part of Falkirk Council's Literacy steering group for a year and explained the policies and procedures already in place and the procedures being worked on to take this forward ,identify priorities and audit this strategy. He then explained his efforts in placing this in the Falkirk High School context.

The Parent Council offered their support and encouragement in working with Parents in promoting the Literacy Strategy in Falkirk High School e.g., with workshops or other parent/ pupil oriented activities. Mr O'Connor thanked the PC for this constructive suggestion. Mr O'Connor then left the meeting.

1. Minutes of last meeting

On the proposal by David McClements and seconded by Emmanuelle Tulle, the Minute of Meeting held on 26th November was approved. **APPROVED**

Matters Arising from Minutes of last meeting

Pupil Representation: No contact has been made due to Prelim Examinations. The Rector will be in contact after the exams have finished. **ACTION RA**

Public Liability: The Rector confirmed this was not covered through the school's insurance i.e. activities out with normal school based meetings e.g., Fundraising would require a specific policy (funding for this would require to be investigated)

ACTION GT

Bank Account: This will be discussed in the Treasurers Report.

HMIE Inspection: This item will be covered in the Rector's Report but may also be meaningful in subsequent meetings in relation to specific issues **ACTION RA**

2. Correspondence

Asymmetrical Week / Change to School Year: - The letter sent to Nigel Fletcher and cc to the Rector was read to all to date no response had been received.

Hungry for Success: - L Mitchell will consult with J Clifford and give us feed back on this at a future meeting. **ACTION LM**

It was noted that the street (hot Food) vendor has ceased to trade at FHS. Colin reported he had been in touch with Falkirk Council Development Services and Licensing and had been told that the only way that the School would receive any notice of impending award of licences or planning applications in terms of food premises in the school locale would be through the neighbour notification process or statutory advertising process. School progress in the take up of school meals would obviously be affected by such premises close to the School.

3. Rector's Report

Everyone should have received a copy of HMIE Report. The Parent Council would like to express thanks to FHS staff and SMT for all the work done to achieve this outcome.

A presentation put together by S Kelly for the staff was shown to all present regarding CAT (Collegiate Ability Test) and UPS (Unified Points Scores). The implications for predicting possible future progress for students was discussed and the Parent council expressed interest in this process for future meetings.

4. Raising Attainment

The Rector included this item in his report and referred to the comment in the December HMIE regarding the progress over the last two and a half years. The negative comment regarding staffing availability was picked up by the authority.

5. Subject Choices

A discussion took place regarding when and how to do this and many points were raised. This item will be included in the next meeting's agenda. **ACTION ER**

Items 6,8,9,10,11 Deferred

12. Clerk to Parent Council Remuneration

It was proposed by Colin Ashwood and seconded by Carol Lennie to pay the clerk to sum of £60 per meeting which covers all related administration, attendance and subsequent minutes and agenda distribution. Expense incurred would be separately charged by the Clerk to the PC funds.

Due to running over time the following agenda items will have to be carried forward to the next meeting:-

- 5. Overview of Subject Choices/timetabling for pupils
- 6. New FHS Website – communication with Parents
- 8. New School project/progress and community aspects
- 11 Treasurers Report
- 13 Fundraising for FHS

14. AOCB

Thank you to S Harley and L Shirra for attending the funeral of Andrew Scott on the Parent Council's behalf.

Thanks also to G Taylor and E Tulle for their efforts in getting the Parent Council's bank account up and running.

The next meetings will take place on Wednesday 5th March and the 2nd April 08 at 7 pm in the Library. Lets will be applied for.

ACTION ER