

DEHS EGM/PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**30/10/2024 DRAFT MINUTES (Edited)***In Attendance,*

Mr Webb (Head Teacher), E Bishop (Chair), E Bishop (Secretary), H McMiken (Treasurer), J Leonard, E McKendrick (Vice Chair), D Stewart, A McKay, F McElrea, D Inglis, C Hill, J Faux, V Morris (Education Support Officer)

Apologies,

L Gurling, D Hunter, H Smith, A Stewart, R Marsh, K Hagmann.

EGM,

Vanessa Morris introduced herself and gave a brief explanation of her role within the council, and how she is able to assist Parent Councils to be the best that they can. Vanessa explained the role of a Parent Council Member, and asked for a show of hands around the table for acceptance. Everyone accepted the invitation, except A McKay, who for now would prefer to be a member of the Parent Council Forum.

Vanessa went on to discuss the positions of the role bearers, she asked if anyone would like the role of Chair, E Bishop raised his hand and E Bishop seconded the nomination, therefore, E Bishop was appointed Chair. Vanessa then asked for nominations for Secretary, E Bishop raised her hand and H McMiken seconded the nomination. Next Vanessa asked for Treasurer nominations, H McMiken stated she is standing down as Treasurer, everyone thanked her for all she has done in the role. J Leonard (reluctantly) put herself forward and was seconded by H McMiken. Lastly E McKendrick nominated himself for Vice Chair and was seconded by E Bishop.

The Draft Constitution was then voted upon, no-one had put forward any amendments to the document, therefore it was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair and is now the Constitution of DEHS Parent Council.

Everyone thanked Vanessa for her time, that ended the EGM.

Parent Council Meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed by everyone.

Edward welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Vanessa again for her time and for chairing the EGM.

Head Teachers Report,

Mr Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed how happy he is to be back at the school after his secondment.

He began his report by updating the members on the current staffing levels within the school. The school is still without a Geography Teacher despite Mr Webbs best efforts. He explained that there had been two applications made for the vacancy, however one was not legally able to teach in Scotland, and the other withdrew their application due to accommodation issues. Mr Webb has appointed a Supply Teacher to teach Humanities to the current S1-S3's, but Senior phase currently does not have access to N5/Higher Geography. Mr Webb advised he has requested a Probationer Teacher, but this would not be in place until the start of the 2025 Academic Year. Mr Webb has also considered travelling to other schools to access the subject but deemed this not to be feasible.

Mr Webb is also looking for a part time English Teacher to cover maternity leave.

Mr Webb then went on to discuss at some length the SQA Data from this year's Exam Diet. His belief is that every young person should leave High School with a qualification at the appropriate level for them. A member asked Mr Webb what the school does to ensure this happens. Mr Webb explained that through the tracking evidence of a young person, teaching can be more targeted.

Mr Webb's presentation of the SQA data was extremely detailed, with each senior phase year groups results broken down and looked at in comparison with both Stranraer Academy and Dumfries High School as well as Dumfries and Galloway as a whole and the Scottish High

Schools across the country. Further details of individual year groups data can be provided if requested. A member had asked about the Maths results, Mr Webb advised that the results for Higher and Advanced Higher Maths had improved, he also stated that Applications of Maths should be seen at the same value as Maths when a young person applies for university. The Scottish Government is looking into making changes to the Maths course to boost results. A member asked about placements, training, work experience in the wider community to help boost a young person's personal statement. Mr Webb said the school had funding for support staff to source this.

SIP

- *Well Being: Mr Webb believes this to be the responsibility of all, by building positive relationships between staff and the young people, using different methods to tackle challenging behaviour, such as the 'Self Reflection Sheets'. The school will continue to focus on supporting young people with the Anti-Bullying Strategy, the Peace Advocacy Service and continuation of praise through the Merit system, Mr Webb is considering changing the delivery of a D-Merit, by using the Self Reflection Sheets, sharing information with parents/carers, and looking at any underlying causes there may be.*
- *Raising Attainment: Mr Drennen is looking into improving the information provided on the current tracking reports, to include what a young person's next step in a subject would be. Mr Webb is also looking again at the SET structure, the general view at the moment is SET is mostly not used in the way it was anticipated. Mr Webb would like to see it as almost a 'mini lesson', and in the Senior Phase a chance to work on applications to College or University. Mr Webb was asked about devoting some SET time to PSE which was met with a nod of heads. A member also suggested the young people have a Form Tutor, who would be their 'go to' teacher throughout their schooling at the DEHS, this could be achieved using SET time. The member felt this would form a bond of trust and could help to raise attainment.*

Sub Group Report.

The Sub Group told the members that they had zero entries to the “Big Book Event” and felt perhaps the young people were all ‘booked’ out. E Bishop suggested it would be nice to organise a Christmas Carol Concert to help raise some funds and bring the community together. All members agreed this would be a good idea and offered forward their help. We are waiting for a date from Mr Webb.

Treasurer’s Report,

Helen told the members that the funds were the same as the previous meeting, the balance on the account stands at, £496.90. Helen is standing down from her role and we all thank her for everything she has done. We welcomed Jenny into the role, and Helen offered her support.

A-O-B,

E Bishop suggested to the members that it would be a good idea to purchase a Pop-Up-Banner which we could use to promote the Parent Council at events such as Parent’s Evening’s, School shows etc. Members thought this would be a good idea and quotes are now being sourced and will be available soon to members via email for approval.

*E Bishop thanked everyone for attending the meeting, apologising for its length. The meeting ended at 9.30pm. *approx.*

Date of next meeting, 13th January 2025 at 7pm.