

DEHS PC AGM Meeting

15th May 2023 @7pm.

Present: G Webb, R Christie, K Haggmann, S Wardell, L McClean, D Stewart, C Garrity, H McMiken, K Hyslop, F McElrea, E Bishop, L Bishop, H Smith, C Adams, A Perry, R Horton, S Foster, D Chang.

Apologies: J McCamon, E McConnell, D Inglis.

Minutes from the previous AGM on the 6th December 2021 were approved by Edward Bishop and seconded Karen Hyslop.

DEHS chairperson report: 15/05/2023.

Good evening and thank you for attending. I can not as usual say that another year has flown in because in fact, we haven't held an AGM since December 2021 and if you can remember that far back we held it on zoom, no need to say why.

I shall keep my report as brief as possible and with it I will pose 2 questions that perhaps you can consider tonight.

1. Is the school a better place to be than it was in December 2021.
2. Has the attainment gap been reduced?

In terms of what has happened since our last AGM:

The bus issues seem to have settled down, we have had much fewer reports of breakdowns, failures to pick up and bad driving.

Teacher shortage is actually much less of a problem than it has been for a while and in fact all our vacancies have been filled.

Pupil behaviour appears to me to be no better or worse than ever before. There are always challenges. In 2021 it was off site smoking now it is on site vaping. The school is very much aware of the impact of Covid on the junior school and are very focussed on tackling behavioural issues.

Exam results for 2022 were in line with expectation and Mr Webb is confident that the attainment gap has been on an upward trajectory since 2019 even with all the problems covid presented. As parents I think we all find it hard to know what a good result is. It will be interesting to see how 2023 turns out but whatever the result I would like to see a line drawn under the problems we have faced in the recent past and so go forward into the new normal with an expectation that the DEHS and its pupils will achieve more than before.

Education Budgets have been cut and will no doubt be cut again. Combine this with an inclusion policy and the fact that the school has to provide much more in the way of social care for our young people than previously I am left wondering; how our education authority and Scottish government ever think it will ever deliver a successful curriculum for excellence any time soon.

On a more positive note, we have a new acting head teacher starting on the 5th of June. Having watched Mr Foster go through the selection process I believe he will meet the many challenges that

he will undoubtedly face head on. It goes without saying we as Parent Council will commit to support him wholeheartedly in the years ahead.

At the same time, I would like to thank Mr Webb for his time with us. There has been very *little business as usual* during George's tenure and I think he has done remarkably well considering all the challenges posed by covid etc. Thank you, George, for your valiant effort.

I would also like to thank Katie Scott for her time as PC secretary and Karen Hyslop as treasurer. Both are stepping down and so both positions need filled. To all of the parents who regularly turn up and contribute thank you and please keep coming. The parent council is an essential forum and should play an active part in developing our schools future. I implore you all to consider taking office and encourage you all to *bring a friend* going forward.

In conclusion

I think our school is a better place than in December 2021, though it could be better still. As for the attainment gap, it can be said that it has been statistically reduced but is it from the bottom up or has the top come down? A more rounded question is perhaps; have our children been better educated and if not, how do we ensure they are going forward?

Thank you.

Rory H Christie 15/05/2023.

Treasurer Report:

Income carried forward from Apr 2022 £160.70. Received double from education allowance £424.20 which made a total of £585.90. After £250 of Clerk's fees the balance remaining is currently £335.90. Karen will ensure books are up to date for the new treasurer taking place.

Office Bearers:

Chairperson: Rory H Christie

Vice Chairperson: Edward Bishop

Treasurer: Helen McMiken

Secretary: tbc

Head of fundraising: R Horton

AOB: none

End of the AGM at 19:14