

# CASTLE DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

7pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Present

Rosie Porteous, Susan Hall, Suzanne Broatch, Lindsay Callander, Sarah McTurk, Dawn Campbell, Lyn Smith, James Smith HT, Steph Senior, Duncan Burns, Louise Dutoit-Burns, Kelly Patterson Learning Support Assistant, Margo Mcquarrie Learning Support Assistant.

### Apologies

Ian Marshall, Suzanne Little, Liz Budde, Gillian Davidson, James McTurk, Janice Craig, Silvana Ross.

### Previous Minutes 16/5/19

Read and approved by committee members Suzanne Broach and Lyn Smith.

### Treasurer's Report

Lindsay reported opening balance of £245.80 - Flowers for Lorna @ £30.00 - Clerk payment @ £200. Leaving opening balance at start of academic year £15.80.

Funding Payment from council £217.70. Funds from Fashion show £688.72.

Balance now £233.50

### School Inspection Results

No specific questions regarding the inspection report to Mr Smith. Mr Smith highlighted recommendations that are in place.

### School Improvement Plan

Suzanne asked for clarification regarding: -

Priority 1.

***"The school as an SCQF ambassador will:***

***Build parental understanding of the Broad General Education and Senior phase and how they link together and move beyond school***

***Build parental understanding of the SCQF framework and equivalence of courses from other providers"***

Mr Smith stated the SCQF framework described how the qualifications such as National 5's, Highers etc fit into pathways during and after school and what the various equivalents are in terms of points. He stated the school has six trained Ambassadors who as part of their training and as agreed by Scottish Government work with other teaching staff pupils and parents to share information and learning. He suggested probable format for sharing this information would be during parent's evenings.

## Priority 2

***“Through improved Monitoring and Tracking parents and pupils will be better informed about progress. Parents and pupils will know if they are on track to achieve goals. Parents and pupils will know the pathway they are on through the Broad General Education and on into the Senior Phase”.***

Suzanne asked how information would be fed out to parents. Mr Smith stated this would be achieved by updating website, and by parents being invited to information evenings, this would assist in getting information to parents more regularly. Mr Smith is also working on identifying earlier if pupils are requiring support rather than waiting until prelim results.

Suzanne asked about introducing learning mentors and asked who these may be. Mr Smith informed committee these are currently be Senior Management Team and Teachers but in the future these mentors could be from the wider school staff such as Learning Support Staff.

## Priority 3

***“Encourage young people to take more responsibility for their learning.***

***Improve parental understanding of the links between BGE → SP → positive post school destinations.***

***Improvements to the senior phase offer that will access digital learning. Improvements to the senior phase that will include working with local employers such as Natural Power”***

Mr Smith stated it is important to identify earlier on which pathway a pupil may be likely to follow and support them to continue on this path with monitoring and support. He is working closely with local employers such as Natural Power to create an apprenticeship pathway where pupils and employers get the most out of the time together

## **Kelly Patterson, Learning Support, fundraising**

Kelly Patterson works within the learning support department and described how challenging it can be to find funds to continue to provide extra support for the pupils. Kelly informed the meeting the school does not have enough netbooks for example, to support pupils, currently there are 25 identified pupils requiring the support of netbooks, the netbooks are also old and slow to update. There was a general discussion around software issues and problems of using own netbooks within school. Mr Smith said this is an ongoing issue. Kelly told the meeting that previously to raise funds the department has an annual Christmas fayre but that she feels they would benefit from a “slush fund” as every week pupils are requiring money for learning skills such as general life skills. There is a school fund but she states it is never enough. Lindsay suggested applying to the Winifred Kennedy Trust Fund who she thinks would look at this favourably she suggested Kelly spoke to Ian Howie in the first instance to enquire about application process. Lindsay also mentioned the possibility of applying to the Barfil Trust for funding and Kelly will also look into this. Dawn suggested speaking to Third Sector to get ideas of possible places to apply for funding and Suzanne said she is happy to contact them.

Further discussion around fund raising for learning support and Kelly and Margo explained they are planning a ***Twilight Walk*** to raise money. This will be from Threave Football Club in a loop totalling 5 miles but with another easier and more accessible route available, the fee to take part would probably be £5 for adults and less for children. Kelly asking PC to support this by helping with marshalling along the route and also support with food, teas and coffees it would be helpful if school could use PC insurance cover. PC happy to support this event and would also be happy to lend float money if required. PC will also support with raising awareness and can use facebook page to help with this. Moving forward it was agreed Kelly will email Suzanne when details are formalised and Suzanne will circulate out to Committee.

Date for this event is **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August at approx. 6pm** further details to follow. Louise Cooper Active School Coordinator is also supporting this. General discussion around what food and drink to offer.

Kelly then discussed how difficult it was to fund the taxi to take pupils to and from riding for the disabled fortnightly. Committee suggested she apply to the PB fund for this as it was thought to be appropriate use of these funds.

### **Fundraising (general) including Holywood Trust update**

#### **PB Funding**

Dawn brought reference to form that needs to be completed for PB funding. All School Departments now have a copy and on completion of these forms they will come back to PC. This fund has been very successful and the hope moving forward is that transport will now be free for all.

Update for lighting, Trine forwarded email from Paul McGregor Youth Works who said a rough costing would be around £5000 Dawn to investigate this further and complete application process for Holywood Turst. Dawn has also enquired with Tesco around ***bags of help*** scheme but this may take some time to complete so will be considered further down the line.

Susan mentioned another possible pathway for obtaining funds may be to apply to the The Warlore Trust, this trust asks that you state what you are raising money for but you cannot request a specific amount, this route will be considered in the future.

#### **AOCB**

Mr Smith updated committee regarding applications for a Science Technician he informed meeting that he was pleased to have received 14 applications and will be looking at these over the next few days.

Susan Hall enquired about Mr Butler being off school and various rumours. Mr Smith clarified Mr Butler is currently off work unwell. The Committee and Staff wish him a speedy recovery.

Lindsay mentioned that Silvana had suggested that money for prize giving/award ceremony could perhaps come from asking local businesses for £5 more in donations. Louise asked about possibility of giving gift cards instead of book tokens at prize giving and Mr Smith will consider these ideas in the future.

Lyn fed back that the new school sound system had sounded good. Mr Smith said there were some teething problems with operating but all now resolved and working well.

Suzanne asked if we could clarify numbers on Parent Council and update constitution. This will be looked at AGM.

Clarification sought about cut backs of teaching staff specifically admin and IT. Mr Smith stated the IT and Admin Teacher had taken early retirement and the education authority made the decision not to replace this teacher. He stated he understands the frustration of parents but that this decision was taken out of his hands. Louise asked about ratio of teachers for example the school having quite a few PE teachers Mr Smith clarified that PE was a compulsory subject and therefore needed a number of PE teachers within the school.

#### **Date of next Meeting**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 AGM

