

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday 21 March 2012

Present:

Iain MacKenzie (Chair)
Sally Brown (DGSA)
Carol Dunham (Parent)
Kate Triscott (Parent)

Lewis Rae (Headboy)
Alice Clubb (Staff)
Gillian Williams (Staff)

Attending:

Mr P Raffaelli (Headteacher), Mrs L Leslie (Clerk)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Iain MacKenzie welcomed members. Apologies were received from Rebecca Clow, Kate Darrah, Julia Dorin and Jacquie Bell.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting on 27 February 2012 were approved. Proposed by Alice Clubb and seconded by Gillian Williams.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Mr Raffaelli reported on the following matters:-

Item 1 - New Management Structure

The second round of interviews to match principal teachers to positions had taken place this week. Any further unallocated positions would lead to a third round of interviews which would be open to any substantive teachers in East Lothian. These interviews would require a School Council member to take part in the process.

Mr Raffaelli would keep the School Council informed of the outcomes.

Action PR

Item 2 – Curriculum for Excellence

There was a discussion following the announcement in the press that Curriculum for Excellence examinations could be delayed by a year if schools required and that there would be extra money available for developing courses. Mr Raffaelli said the DGS was on track for delivering the new national exams on time and any extra funding would be useful in allowing teachers time away from the classroom to work on developing courses.

Following a discussion at last month's School Council where it was suggested that the second year maybe unsure about what Curriculum for Excellence means for them; Mr Raffaelli had hosted question and answer sessions in PSE classes which had confirmed that the students did have concerns. Mr Raffaelli was able to allay these and pledged to keep the second year more informed in the future.

The Curriculum Group had met recently and was working on the senior phase. Mr Raffaelli reminded the group that members of the Council were welcome to attend and that he would continue to update the Council.

Item 3 - Budget

Mr Raffaelli confirmed that the budget had balanced at the end of the agreed three year period. Efficiency savings for next year would be £20,000 – this was less than had been anticipated.

Item 4 – Staffing

Mr Raffaelli said that the temporary principal teacher posts would finish at the end of May as part of the new management structure. There would be 5 or 6 classroom teacher posts to be filled for next session.

Item 5 – Pitch Floodlighting

The portable lighting had arrived and was in place. The storage container for the lighting required shelving to support the lights and a request to Councillor Paul McLennan for funding had been made.

It was noted that the School Council expressed its thanks to all the sports coaches who give up so much time to work with students and that the school was achieving so many sporting successes.

4. DGSA Report

- a) Sally Brown reported that the DGSA was holding a Ladies' Disco Night as a fundraiser on 25 May at the British Legion.
- b) The DGSA was working on criteria for using the proceeds of fundraising.
- c) There would not be a car boot sale this year but the DGSA would be taking a Pipe Band stall.

5. Treasurer's Report

Due to the Treasurer's absence the drawing of the 200 Club number was postponed to the next meeting. The notional balance stood at £2,625.06. It was suggested that the 200 club bag could be held in the school to allow draws to take place in KB's absence.

6. Student Council Report

- a) Lewis Rae said that voting slips would be circulated to students this week asking four yes or no questions on changes to uniform. An on-line survey had already been sent to members of the Council and staff and parents would be able to access it on the school website this week.
- b) Lewis Rae and Rebecca Clow would be speaking to the Student Council and would devise a list of topics for the Student Council to carry forward to next session.

7. Correspondence

Iain MacKenzie briefly went through the minutes of the ELCAPCM of 7 March. Iain would attend next the meeting on 25 April and if members had any questions for him to raise please could they email them to him.

8. AOCB

- a) Easter revision classes were being finalised. The School Council wished it be noted that it was very appreciative of the teachers who give up their free time to provide Easter revision and the extra study classes for students. These classes are very beneficial to students.
- b) It was noted that the proposed strike in March by EIS members will not be taking place as negotiations with the Scottish Government had started.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was changed to *Tuesday 24 April* as the original date clashed with the next ELCAPCM meeting. A provisional date of *Wednesday 23 May* was proposed for May.