



MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT: Tim Holden (Chair) Parent
Iain Smith Parent
Kim White Parent
Vicky Cole Parent
Andrew Greathead Parent
Kath Anderson Staff
Linda McInnes Staff

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Craig Head Teacher
Ms A Cosgrove Clerk
Cllr Tom Trotter
Gillian Wilson)
Lynsey Ward) Staff, Biology Department (for Item 2)
Claire Slowther)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and advised of Fiona Mackenzie's resignation, as she no longer had a child at the School.

Apologies had been received from Sarah Ingham.

2. Presentation from Biology Department

Gillian Wilson began the presentation by advising members that the Biology Department hoped to create an Eco Club in the School. They wanted to set up an Eco Committee and carry out an environmental review of the School, looking at the carbon footprint while carrying out core curricular work.

Lynsey Ward added that the initial target group was the 1st year group, 90% of them had come from Primary Schools with strong Eco Groups. However the Senior School had offered to get involved and there was interest from all year groups. The group had 4 objectives:-

- To sort out recycling as there was presently no set system: there would be a competition for the front of the recycling boxes to stimulate interest
- Energy "Police" would be appointed to ensure appliances were switched off where possible
- A vegetable patch was planned
- An eco-life evening was also planned

Claire Slowther advised that the group hoped to run a Eco-swap with clothes and shoes at the eco-life evening, as well as different stalls for paper making; recycling of beads and old

jewellery; face masks and hair conditioning; using up leftovers; book swaps; a fashion show using local charity shops and fair trade refreshments. Input from parents was welcomed as well as donations nearer the time.

Parent members were enthusiastic and Vicky Cole offered to go on the Eco-Committee. The Biology staff were thanked for their contribution.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 2 June

Agreed a true record, with the exception that the abbreviation SEEMIS (Item 7, line 1) replace the abbreviation CMIS.

4. Matters arising

Mrs Craig stated that the phrase in the Provost's speech on the closure of the CCF stating the "MoD must... endorse the Head's decision to close the CCF" was incorrect, as it had never been her decision to close the CCF. It was agreed that this would be inserted as a Post Meeting Note.

5. Chairperson's Report and Action Points

Presentation to Staff by the PSP on activities of the Partnership – Mrs Craig advised that this had been well received by the staff and had encouraged the new Eco group staff to attend the meeting. Agreed that this could be carried out 1 -2 times per year. The PSP could be invited to attend future events.

P7 evening – This had gone well

Draft Comment re CCF for website – Completed.

Development Plan Review - In Sarah Ingham's absence, this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Moving Parents Link on Webpage – Completed.

The Chair had no other comments.

6. Head Teacher's Report

Mrs Craig gave a summary of the exam results as follows:

Standard Grade

97% of the original S4 cohort had obtained 5 Standard Grades at level 3 or more

84% had achieved 5 at Level 4 or more

51% had achieved 5 at Level 5 or more

9 pupils had achieved 8 at Band 1.

On individual subjects:

100% of the cohort had achieved English at level 3 or more; in Maths 101% had obtained Level 3 or more. (The additional 1% was accounted for by additional pupils joining during the year).

Higher Grade

50% of the pupil cohort had obtained 1 Higher; 36% had obtained 3 Highers; 21% had achieved 5 + Highers. This was the best result for the School in 5 years. Seven pupils had obtained 5 "A" grades and 2 pupils had achieved 6 "A" passes.

Advanced Higher

19% of pupils obtained 1 AH; 2 pupils obtained 3 Ahs.

Mrs Craig explained the rationale for scores.

Questions were asked about drop out rates for Advanced Highers, and Mrs Craig advised that there were various reasons, but principally this was due to pupils receiving unconditional acceptances from university, leading to a lack of motivation in continuing the course. Linda McInnes agreed that it was frustrating for staff putting work into courses only for pupils to leave at Christmas. She emphasized the work done by the school in encouraging take-up and the support given by staff.

Mrs Craig expressed delight at the exam results, and although as yet there was no track of boys v girls progress, a more detailed analysis would be available in due course.

Parents agreed that a message of support to pupils in recognition of their hard work should be sent.

Sederunt – Vicky Cole left the meeting.

Roll for year – first year was roll-capped at 160, and currently stood at 143.

The Awards Ceremony had gone well.

S1 Settling In Evening would take place on Thursday 23rd. Mr Greathead would attend. Mrs Craig agreed to include mention of signing up to PSP website as well as the School website.

Noted that cookery continued to be offered in Home Economics although other aspects were included in the course.

A staffing report was made to parents, noting that the School roll had dropped by about 100. However all courses that could be run would be provided.

7. Teacher Members Report

Linda McInnes advised that a numeracy booklet had been distributed to all 1st years and was also on the website. All homework in the Maths department was now on the website, although paper copies were also available. Revision would also be on the website, and other departments were also populating the site.

8. Support Staff Members Report

Noted that the SEEMIS system was occupying a great deal of time in training and support.

9. Councillors' Report

Cllr Trotter expressed satisfaction with the exam results.

There had been concerns locally about litter and agreed to pursue the matter of a litter bin which had disappeared.

10. Parents Matters

Questions were raised about lack of advance warning of class tests and how pupils were allocated to Credit or General in Maths. Linda McInnes explained the structure of Maths classes, and advised that tests dates would be on the website.

Sederunt – Cllr Trotter left the meeting.

11. Correspondence

- Letter from Scottish Parent Teacher Council
- Information on Training and East Lothian Council newsletter for parents was distributed. It was requested that this be circulated by e-mail in future.

12. Pupil Matters

There were no matters for the meeting. It was agreed that this item could be moved to the start of the meeting.

12. Dates for Future Meetings

The Clerk requested that the dates of 1 December and 12 January be changed to 8 December and 19 January because of a clash of evening meetings. This was agreed.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 6 October 2010.

Signed:

(Chairperson)

Date: 6 October 2010

Signed-----

(Clerk)

Date 6 October 2010

	Who	When
Attend Eco-Committee	VC	
Message of support to pupils for exam results	JC	
S1 Settling In Evening	AG	23 September
Move Pupils Matters to near top of agenda	Clerk	Next Meeting