

MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT: Tim Holden (Chair) Parent
Ian Smith Parent
Kim White Parent
Vicky Cole Parent
Mark Wyllie Parent
Andrew Greathead Parent
Kath Anderson Staff
Linda McInnes Staff
Sarah Ingham Staff

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Craig Head Teacher
Cllr Tom Trotter
Ms A Cosgrove Clerk
Derek Simpson Parent
Liz Syme Parent

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

2. Presentation by David Swinney, Faculty Head of Communications and Literacy

Mr Swinney spoke to members, saying he had been teaching in the School for 17 years. He referred to Curriculum for Excellence as a development of partnership between the School and parents, and that it was developing teachers' work with the national picture becoming apparent for the first time.

He described the creation of the faculty to include English, Modern Languages and Learning Support, with the aim of the whole faculty to support literacy, and support being given almost immediately to identified S1 pupils. A creative timetable had been set up with pupils.

Mr Swinney questioned how a partnership could be created with parents on homework, and described the various options that had been made available, with considerable success. Vicky Cole agreed, saying homework had a better involvement with pupils. Parents were also encouraged to work with their children on homework. Mr Swinney gave an example of methods of improvement of vocabulary, as well as the creation of mini work folios.

Parent asked questions on the availability of reading lists being on the website; reading books with parents; and accessing homework jotters. Mrs Craig mentioned the work also being carried out by the School Library in supporting literacy.

The Chair thanked Mr Swinney for his interesting and informative presentation which had been of great value to parents.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 6 October

Amendments: Mrs Craig advised of the following:

Page 2, Para 3 on Home Economics – It was not the case that only one hour of cookery took place every 4 weeks. There were 3 hours of HE a week for one-third of the year, with cookery a part of that.

At para 2 of the same item, she asked that "There was no less budget than other departments" be amended to read "there was no less budget than before".

Page 2, Para 6 on Events –the 2nd year had competed in the Land Yacht competition, not the 3rd year as stated.

4. Matters arising

Update from Eco-Committee – Vicky Cole reported that everything had been organized for the Eco event and Fashion Show on 4th November, and that the Biology staff had pulled out all the stops for this event.

Item for Knox News – completed.

Annual Report – had been issued to parent members.

Visit involving the Royal Society – Linda McInnes advised that a visit was now taking place.

5. Chairperson's Report and Action Points

Blog – Items relating to lunchtime restrictions in Tesco's, Home Economics and School events had been put on the blog.

On Tesco restrictions, Mrs Craig advised that despite agreement that 5th and 6th year pupils wearing blazers and ties should be admitted without restriction at lunchtime, the problem had re-surfaced after the October break and had happened again a few days previously. Mrs Craig was still seeking a meeting with the manager as he had cancelled an earlier pre-arranged meeting in the School, and she was hoping that the matter would be resolved.

6. Pupils' Matters

As no pupils were present, there was nothing to report.

7. Head Teacher's Report

Mrs Craig reported on the following matters:

Staffing – A staffing report was made to members.

Annual Report – Questions were invited on the Annual Report, and the Chair asked if the School Aims were under review. Mrs Craig responded that they were always under review and she was happy to take comments.

ASDAN- Mrs Craig explained that this was an English company offering a range of qualifications for different challenges.

Appointments – Mrs Craig explained that every new appointment was temporary because of the Council's moratorium on new posts. She described the appointments process

Finance/Budget – Beverley Skirrow would attend to give a budget update at the December meeting.

Catchment area – Mrs Craig had met with Andy Shaw from the Council to discuss housebuilding at Letham Mains and the effect on school numbers. A meeting would be held

in the school on November 23rd at 7.30 pm where councilors would discuss proposals with parents. Comments were to be with the Education Department by 21 December.

Proposed Boxing Club – Mrs Craig informed parents of plans to create a Boxing Club in the School. Discussions had been held with pupils, the Sports Co-ordinator and the Head of Education.

Councillor Trotter supported this, saying it was a fantastic idea, and Mark Wylie said that there had been a lot of support for a club run during the summer months. Mrs Craig advised that there would be an emphasis on fitness, noting that part of the gym would be set aside from dance and a fitness area.

Parents encouraged this initiative, noting that it would be subject to review.

Sederunt – Cllr Trotter left the meeting.

Events – An evening had been held for the two groups travelling to Nicaragua and Honduras; the Faculty Challenge had taken place; a Higher Drama event had been held; and a Hallowe'en event.

Forthcoming events were the Eco Fashion Show; the S4 Prelims; Global Enterprise; Remembrance Day event on 11 November with a virtual assembly; S4 work experience; and a winter disco on 2 December.

Parents Evenings – there had been an issue with parents not getting appointments. Mrs Craig emphasized that any parent unsuccessful in obtaining an appointment should contact the Guidance Department and arrange a phone call or a discussion at another time. The fallback position was to contact the Head of House or Guidance for advice and information, and they would be happy to arrange phone calls. This information could be put on the school website. Noted that Guidance staff were always around at Parents Evenings for assistance if required.

Curriculum for Excellence – A presentation would be made at the meeting on 19th January 2011.

Results – With regard to set Fol data provided by the parents on the A grades at Higher level, the chair advised that the School felt they were unable to comment on other school results. It was, however, agreed that specific queries on the data would be passed to Mrs Craig for responses at the next meeting.

8. Staff Members Report

Linda McInnes reported that pupils' activities relating to the Commonwealth Games were now on the website, and more work, especially from S1, would be added.

Kim White noted that good use was being made of the website, and that a reminder to use this facility could be placed on the blog.

Sarah Ingham expressed concern that pupils were coming to school with high energy drinks as a substitute for breakfast, with a consequent huge slump in energy levels mid-morning. It was proposed that a Breakfast Club be started which would help to combat this, and would include physical activity.

9. Parents Matters

Mark Wylie asked about the interview process for the Nicaragua/Honduras visit, and Mrs Craig explained this.

10. Correspondence

This had all been circulated by e-mail.

11. AOB

New Detention Policy – Mrs Craig advised that travel arrangements for pupils kept in for detention on Friday afternoon were the responsibility of the pupils concerned.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 December 2010.

Signed: _____ (Chairperson) Date: 8 December 2010

Signed _____ (Clerk) Date 8 December 2010

	Who	When
Update on Tesco issue	JC	For next meeting
School Budget	Beverley Skirrow	For next meeting
Parents to provide specific queries on FoI results	JC	By next meeting