



## DALZIEL HIGH SCHOOL

### PARENT COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 3 February 2011**

**in the School Conference Room**

<b>Present:</b>	Mrs E Kelly	-	Acting Head Teacher
	Mr R Birch	-	Appointed Head Teacher
	Mrs Moyra Scott	-	Chairperson
	Mrs June Weir	-	Treasurer
	Mrs Sadia Ahmed	-	Parent Member
	Mrs Margaret Craw	-	Staff Member
	Mrs Rosemary Sinclair	-	Clerk

#### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from A Carroll, M Malcolm and N Richardson.

#### 2 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of events.

#### 3 **BUSINESS ARISING**

##### **The Appointment of the New Rector**

R Birch, the newly appointed Rector was welcomed to the meeting. He stated he was delighted to be back in Dalziel again and was looking forward to his return.

M Scott stated that the Parent Council were delighted to welcome him back and proceeded to introduce him to the members of the Parent Council.

#### 4 **RECTOR'S REPORT**

##### 4.1 **Staffing**

E Kelly updated the meeting on the current staffing issues.

L Begg, PT Drama, is now back in school and is following her new part-time timetable of 3 days per week.

C Kelly, is Acting PT Drama for the other two days per week and will be overseeing this year's School Show.

The long term absence of J Buchan was also highlighted. It is hoped he may return on Monday, but supply staff have been arranged if this is not the case.

In his absence, S Toner and K Toner have taken over his certificate classes with K Toner as Acting PT.

R Birch and E Kelly are to meet with A Henry to confirm staffing before the schematic timetable is issued.

She explained that during Tuesday's meeting with S Murray, NLC's decision to cap the S1 intake at 140 was discussed. The reason he gave for the reduction was that pupils were being taught in inappropriate areas of the School. This was disputed by E Kelly, who has been the School Timetabler for the last few years. At the moment, next year's roll has been planned at 180 pupils into S1, plus almost 37 pupils on the waiting list to join S2. A change to this would lead to the school roll dropping to its lowest in 18 years and the possible loss of up to 4 teachers. It is hoped that some of these losses may be covered by early retirement requests being granted to a number of eligible staff, but this will not be confirmed until the end of March.

E Kelly emphasised that due to fewer pupils than normal in S2-S6 next year, the School could easily enrol 180 pupils into S1 with no accommodation issues.

A discussion then ensued with Parent Council members, who all agreed that Dalziel currently offers a great curriculum and excellent choices for pupils. They expressed their concern at the possible drop in the school roll and it was agreed that, if necessary, M Scott, Chairperson, would write to North Lanarkshire Council voicing these concerns.

#### **4.2 Inter-House Public Speaking Competition**

A very good turnout was reported at November's Inter-House Public Speaking Competition, where the audience were treated to a number of excellent speeches given by pupils of all ages.

#### **4.3 Remembrance Service**

The Remembrance Service, which included a Powerpoint presentation created by the History and RE departments, was very well attended.

#### **4.4 Christmas Activities**

Despite the number of snow days, the Christmas Dances all took place before the break, with four dances being held in one week.

The Senior Dance was a great success, assisted by the superb staff in the PE Department.

#### **4.5 Examinations**

The S3 Prelims have now been completed.

Referring to the analysis of results, E Kelly reported that the Standard Grade results were down a little on last year. Meetings have now taken place with PTs and Monitors and the following strategies put in place for improvement:

- extra Supported Study classes have been put on
- extra help is now available on the website
- identified pupils are to be targeted where necessary

M Scott enquired whether there was a noticeable difference between boys and girls.

E Kelly replied that having monitored these results for years she was able to confirm that the girls always out-performed the boys, although in Dalziel this gap was not as pronounced as in other schools. However, she added that in Upper School, the boys did perform a little better.

Departments are to hold further Prelims in the next couple of weeks and staff were confident that the overall results will then be the same as last year.

Last year, in the SQA examinations, 48% of S3 pupils gained 5+ Credit passes, which is predicted to rise to 63% this year.

A spreadsheet detailing the results of S3 and S4 pupils is assisting staff in targeting pupils to be pushed to achieve credit equivalent passes by the end of S4.

#### **4.6 S2 Parents' Evening**

The S2 Parents' Evening went well. One parent, who left a comment after he was kept waiting due to an appointment over-running, is to be contacted by the Subject PT.

#### **4.7 S5/6 Parents' Evening**

The S5/6 Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 23 March. All courses are finished and pupils are now working on past papers. Their first Prelim has been held and the next is due in March.

#### **4.8 Inset Days**

The half-term holiday dates are Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 February.

Inset Days 4 and 5 are to be held on Friday 11 February and Wednesday 16 February and a comprehensive programme of presentations and meetings has been scheduled.

Linda Henderson, Child Protection Officer for North Lanarkshire Council, is to give a Child Protection presentation to both teaching and non-teaching staff in the School on the Wednesday Inset Days.

#### **4.9 Headteacher's Meeting**

CAT Testing - The Rector reported on her attendance at the recent Headteacher's meeting where C Pollock had informed HTs that S1 CAT testing was to be carried out in every school. This was carried out in schools during September/October and the deadline for returns has now passed. For Dalziel pupils to do this now it would cost £800. E Kelly is to investigate whether Dalziel can leave CAT testing until Session 2011/2012.

Budget - She was also informed that NLC expect schools to underspend their budget, allowing the Council to recoup a percentage of monies leftover. However, she was confident that there would be no underspend in Dalziel.

Prince's Trust - All schools in North Lanarkshire are now to include the Prince's Trust in their Options choices. They are asking schools to provide two members of staff for three periods per week with an expected class size of 14/15 pupils. The Rector is to request further information on the Trust to compare with Dalziel's STAR programme, which currently caters for 50 pupils.

The STAR programme may already cover most of the requirements of the Prince's Trust and so pupils could be recognised for this award without having to create new arrangements on the Option forms.

#### **4.10 Work Experience**

S Murray, QIO, has expressed NLC's concerns at Dalziel's Wednesday afternoon Work Experience slot, as it was felt that many placements would not now be available to pupils from other schools. A Working Group has been set up to look at Work Experience across the authority.

E Kelly explained that the majority of placements were self-found by pupils and that the School carries out all Health and Safety checks for each placement. She is now to compile a report on the matter for NLC.

Parent Council members expressed their support for the School's Work Experience initiative and the many benefits it brings to pupils and were concerned about possible changes to the scheme.

#### **4.11 Upper School Curriculum Structure**

E Kelly yesterday attended at meeting at Kildonan Street to confirm the above.

#### **4.12 S1 Reports**

S1 Reports are now to incorporate Curriculum for Excellence within the report. The amendments were discussed with PTs this afternoon and they were satisfied with the changes made. It is now planned to ask Parents for their opinions when they have seen their son/daughter's S1 reports.

#### **4.13 Visit of DHTs**

The School was recently visited by two DHTs from Brannock High School to look at the Senior School Curriculum, with which they were very impressed.

M Scott thanked E Kelly for her very comprehensive report and commented that it appeared the School would have to face a number of 'battles' in the near future.

### **5 TREASURER'S REPORT**

There was no change to report.

### **6 CORRESPONDENCE**

M Scott has received a letter from W Samuel tendering his resignation, as co-opted member of the Parent Council, with immediate effect.

Clerk to the Parent Council, Mrs R Sinclair, also tendered her resignation as of the last Parent Council as of the last meeting in June.

A discussion then ensued on suitable replacements for future co-opted members and also a new Clerk to the Parent Council.

### **7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Customer Service Excellence**

E Kelly was pleased to report that once again the School had been awarded Customer Service Excellence status with no partial compliances.

### **8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place on Thursday 3 March at 7.00 pm in the School Conference Room.