



# Minutes of 33rd Stranraer Academy Parent Council Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010

**PRESENT: -**

**Parent Members:** Rod Baxter, Neil Fyfe, Emma Sutherland, Christine Fowles, Jo Cochrane, Lesley McColm, James McQuisitin, Lesley McSkimming and Anne Boyd.

**Co-opted Member:** Robert Downie

**Student Rep:** Michael McClorey

**Head Teacher:** Norman Dawson

**Teacher Rep:** Helen-Marie Bradley, Lynn McCormack, Susan Boyd, Ian Munro.

**Clerk:** Lorraine Heron

**Council Member:** Councillor I Dick

<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; APOLOGIES</b>
	Jo Cochrane welcomed everyone to the first Parent Council Meeting of the new school year, particularly our three new parent members. As this was Jo's first meeting as Chairperson, she asked everyone to consider the format of our meetings and reports and see if there are any areas which could be improved or changed to make them more useful for everyone involved. Apologies were put forward on behalf John Crawford, Richard Little and Neale McQuistin.
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>
	The Minutes of the last Meeting were proposed as accurate by Robert Downie and seconded by Christine Fowles.
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recycling</b> – Susan Boyd asked if Ian Dick could clarify the Councils' position on paper recycling. The Council no longer collect Paper from the school and we would like to know if this is likely to change in the future. Councillor Dick advised that a DVD is available explaining Council's policy on Recycling and he will arrange to get this sent to the school. It was previously agreed that Mr Speedie from D&amp;G Council would visit the school at the beginning of this term to talk to the pupils and possibly arrange a visit to the Ecodeco plant. Councillor Dick will chase this up. <span style="float: right;">Action: I Dick</span></li> <li>• <b>Dux Board</b> – Paul Jardine from Dumfries Academy has agreed to do some restoration work on the Dux Board. As Neale had previously agreed to help transport the boards to Dumfries, Lorraine to email him to ask if this could be arranged. <span style="float: right;">Action L Heron</span></li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT</b>
	Michael McClorey advised that as the school term has just started the Pupil Council are busy electing members and new House Captains there was nothing specific to discuss tonight. Jo reminded Michael that any of the pupils were welcome at the meeting and asked him to pass this on at the Pupil Council meetings.  Ian Dick advised the members that he had contacts that could provide reflective items for pupils walking to school should they want them and asked if Michael could discuss this with the Pupil Council. <span style="float: right;">Action M McClorey</span>
<b>5.</b>	<b>HEAD TEACHERS REPORT</b>
	<p>Norman Dawson reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Staffing/Absence</b> – Adam Stephenson has joined us as PT Pupil Support. Shameen Syed (RME) and Krystin Pagan (Technical) are probationers this year and Andy Taylor has joined the Business Studies Department.</li> <li>2. <b>Exclusions</b> – We have had one exclusion since we came back but ARG are already involved with this pupil.</li> <li>3. <b>Head Boy/Girl</b> – The interviews took place in June and Michael McClorey and Jenni Murray were chosen. The interview panel consisted of Robert Downie (Parent Council), PC Mitchell, Sandra Dutton and Norman Dawson. It is hoped next year Michael and Jenni will represent the school at the interviews.</li> <li>4. <b>House System</b> – This is now up and running. House captains and vice-captains have been appointed. The Assemblies are now largely in House Groups. So far the Register Teachers teaching PSE seem to be working well.</li> <li>5. <b>Exam Results</b> – In almost all the measures in S4 and S5 there has been an improvement in performance. Alec Scales will come to school to meet with PTs to discuss whole school and individual department results. Happy to go into more detail at the next meeting.</li> <li>6. <b>Award Ceremonies</b> – Although very early – would the Parent Council like to think about who could be approached as a Speaker for next year's award ceremonies? (A few names were put forward by members - enquiries ongoing)</li> <li>7. <b>Internet Safety Week</b> – This is being run in conjunction with the Police from Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. All pupils should receive a leaflet and CD and there will be talks in Assembly. There will be a presentation for Parents on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept from 6-7 in the Conference room.</li> <li>8. <b>Royal Society of Edinburgh</b> – The RSE will be hosting a large number of events in D&amp;G over the next year. One of these events will be a Christmas Lecture which will be held in Stranraer Academy on Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. The guest speaker will be Allan Little and there is a possibility that the BBC will want to televise the event. They are also hoping to organise a 'Dragons Den' type event for S3 in the spring.</li> <li>9. <b>Dux Boards</b> – Paul Jardine from Dumfries Academy is happy to restore the boards.</li> </ol>

6.	<b>TEACHERS REPORT</b>
	<p><i>Susan Boyd reported on the following:</i>  <b>Green Flag</b> - She advised that she is currently working her way through the application for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Flag and would expect the Audit to take place in December.  <b>Fair-Trade</b> - A Fair Trade committee has been formed which so far includes 17 seniors and one 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It is hoped that by the next PC meeting we will have a Policy in place and have the 1<sup>st</sup> goal achieved.  <b>Young Enterprise Group</b> – Liam Tate has formed a Young Enterprise Group with S5/6 and has asked Susan to assist. They will be taking part in a Scotland wide scheme to find the 'best run company' and the winner will receive an award.  <b>Modern Studies</b> – The Modern Studies department will be taking part in an event called 'I'm a councillor – get me out of here' which will include entries from all over Scotland. This will involve pupils engaging with Councillors, asking questions and raising issues etc.  <b>Technical Dept</b> – The Technical Department are entering a competition run by Arnold Clark.  <b>Duke of Edinburgh Awards</b> – We now have over 50 students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.</p> <p><i>Lynne McCormack reported on the following:</i>  <b>ASDAN</b> – There has been an increase in uptake since August and Lynn has been approached by more students wanting to take part in ASDAN for their record of Achievement. She is working alongside the Eco-group and Fair Trade committee as well as the Learning Centre. A lot of Seniors are keen to add Leadership Skills to their Record Of Achievement.</p> <p><i>Mr Munro advised the members that there is an ongoing problem with access to the Music rooms in the new school. There is only one key per classroom and a lot of teaching time is being lost due to staff having to collect/locate keys. The result is that staff are spending valuable lesson time looking for a key or signing keys in and out of the office. The knock on effect is that pupils are being left standing in corridors for 5 minutes or more at the beginning of a lesson, thus losing valuable teaching time. This is not an issue with every subject, but with practical subjects, particularly Music, it is a real problem. Apart from Learning and Teaching issues, there is also the issue of Health and Safety and the disruption to other pupils in nearby classrooms. Staff have raised this issue with Amey on more than one occasion, but so far they have not reached any conclusion. It is not simply a case of getting keys copied. In order for duplicates to be made, a letter of authority must be received from Amey and they are not willing to provide this. Amey do not seem to appreciate that there is often more than one member of staff requiring access to a classroom but some sort of compromise has to be made to stop further disruption to the students. Mr Munro asked if the PC could help in some way and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Colin Grant seeking a solution to the problem.</i> <b>Action I</b>  <b>Heron</b></p>
7.	<b>TREASURERS REPORT</b>
	<p>Rod Baxter confirmed that the balance of the Treasurers account as £218.84 and the fundraising account as £2324.25, with some monies still to come in from the P7 disco and the B block party night. As the balance of the fundraising account is quite healthy, a few ideas were discussed regarding what the money could be used for. Some of the cash was already earmarked for a Display Cabinet for the school and Rod advised he would have some more information on this available at the next meeting. <b>Action R Baxter</b></p>
8.	<b>CORRESPONDANCE</b>
	<p>The most recent copy of Backchat was available for the members to read, and the only other correspondence was the receipt for the Parent Councils' insurance with the SPTC.</p>
9.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
	<p><b>Internet Safety Week</b> – As there had been a poor turnout of parents last year it was hoped that a groupcall could go out to parents reminding them that the event was taking place. It was also suggested that perhaps West Sound radio could be advised of any events involving the Parent Council in order to reach more parents. James McQuisitin agreed to register any events with them in the future. <b>Action J McQuisitin</b></p> <p><b>School Buses</b> – Councillor Ian Dick advised the members that the country buses are now stopping and filling the buses with some of the 'town' pupils. An arrangement is in place for the bus drivers to call ahead and arrange for the community transport to come and collect those pupils who are left. It was thought that this was working well although some parents said that children had been left at Agnew Cres. on at least one occasion.</p> <p><b>School Meals</b> – Lorraine had received a call from a parent wishing to know if there was any way parents could find an example of what was available in the school canteen. Mr Dawson advised that he would try and get something posted on the school website but in the meantime if the parent required any further info she could contact Shona McGibney who would be able to help.</p> <p><b>Uniform</b> – The same parent had also asked if the school still had blue jumpers as part of the uniform as she was led to believe that they were no longer available. However, Mr Dawson advised that they are available to order, but the staff don't have them in stock as the pupils tend not to wear them anymore. Jon Anderson is the person to contact at the school office.</p> <p><b>School Holidays</b> – Christine Fowles advised that she had received a survey from Colin Grant asking her opinion on changing the summer break to a week earlier in June, returning a week earlier in Aug. Christine had asked all her work colleagues for their opinions and most had said they would rather keep them the same. She sent this info back but as yet has not heard anything else.</p> <p><b>MUGA</b> – James McQuisitin, together with Neale and Rod have been trying to raise money from outside sources to help get the full size MUGA to Stranraer Academy. They have received a sum from a large company to allow them to employ a consultant to assist them with their efforts. James reiterated that we have to remain proactive with this issue.</p> <p><b>Evaluation Questionnaire</b> – Jo reminded the members that an Evaluation questionnaire had been devised earlier in the year and perhaps we could start thinking of ways to get this out parents and get their opinions and comments.</p>
10.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
	<p>The next meeting will be held on Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7 pm in the school Library.</p>