

James Gillespie's High School

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 6th September 2022

Note of meeting

This meeting was held using Microsoft Teams due to ongoing limitations on group meetings related to Covid-19. Questions from parents and carers were invited prior to the meeting and could also be added during the meeting using a moderated chat.

The following are notes of the presenter names and main points covered, as well as any relevant links, to accompany the video of the meeting held on Teams, which is available to view at: <https://youtu.be/ACeBluTjo1w>

Presenters:

Neil McCallum – DM (Acting HT), Sarah Scott – SS (PC Chair), Laura Stewart – LS (DHT), Mairi McLennan – MM (CL Performing Arts) and Eliot Ambrose – EA (Active Schools Coordinator)

Moderators:

Hilary Snaith – HS and Laura Bird – LB

1. Welcome and note of last meeting (0:00:00 – 00:03:05)

SS welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting. Formal minutes were not recorded for the previous online meeting (17 May 2022) as a video record is available at: <https://youtu.be/coFnVhKMNqs>

2. Introduction and Parent Council update – Sarah Scott (00:03:05 – 00:09:03)

SS welcomed the new acting HT, Neil McCallum, to give his report, Mairi McLennan (HT Performing Arts) to report on musical events at the school, Eliot Ambrose, to talk about the Active Schools programme and Laura Stewart (DHT) to give an update on the Darroch refurbishment.

SS outlined the role and organisation of the Parent Council and indicated that PC meetings would be a mixture of online and in person for the coming year, with the AGM on 12 October held in the school.

The new Education, Children and Families Committee was still to put its normal suite of meetings for parental engagement, such as Locality meetings, back in place after the elections but this was expected soon.

It is still intended to advertise for the permanent HT post in the autumn. Neil McCallum will act as interim HT until a permanent appointment is made.

SS gave a report on PC finances. A full report and accounts for 2021/22 will be available for the AGM. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the Award to be made to mark Donald

Macdonald's departure. Parents can contribute to Parent Council fundraising via EasyFundraising and ParentPay. Further information is available at: <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/fundraising/>.

3. School Concert Planning – Mairi McLennan (00:09:03 – 00:11:56)

MM introduced the school's plans for extra-curricular music groups, and to hold the Christmas concert, the senior production, and Spring Fling for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

4. Active Schools – Eliot Ambrose (00:11:56 – 00:30:04)

EA confirmed that donations to the Active Schools programme in JGHS in 2021/22 had been sufficient to cover its costs over the year, with a total expenditure of about £7,400. The programme for 2022/23 was about to be launched and would use the same donation system. Parent volunteers were still needed to help with activities.

EA and MM answered questions on school concerts and on Active Schools.

5. Head Teacher's report and update – Neil McCallum (00:30:04 – 01:04:54)

NM introduced himself and gave updates on staff recruitment, removal of covid restrictions, flu vaccinations, lunchtime and other breaks, the Empowered Learning Programme, prelims, the Christmas concert, Active Schools and extra-curricular activities, school trips, school uniform, rising rolls and teaching space, school assemblies, the school communications policy, celebration of wider achievement, homework, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, SQA results and parents' evenings.

6. Darroch refurbishment – Laura Stewart (01:04:54 – 01:16:30)

LS gave a presentation on the progress of the Darroch refurbishment, indicating that it was still expected that the move would be in October round about the school holidays.

The presentation is available at: <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/2022/09/>

7. Questions and answers (01:16:30 – 01:34:02)

NM and LS answered questions on the Darroch building, S6 study space, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, smoking and vaping, use of textbooks and prelim timetabling.

8. Thanks (01:34:02 – 01:36:24)

SS thanked NM for his first HT update and MM, EA, and LS for their presentations. Further information on the work of the Parent Council can be found at <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/>

9. Date of next Parent Council meeting

The next meeting is the Parent Council AGM on 12 October 2022 to be held in person at the school.