

Earlston High School Parent Council — Minutes of Meeting on 31 January 2024

1. Volunteer for minutes of this meeting

The Head Team agreed to take minutes.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Taken as read and approved

3. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Lynne Maclure reported that new office bearers are being onboarded to the bank account. Appreciation for her efforts on that front was given.

4. Actions and matters arising

Dr Alex Heneveld welcomed everyone to the meeting, in person and online. A warm welcome was extended to Mr Alex Johnson, incoming Headteacher. Mr Johnson joined the meeting online and introduced himself to the Council.

An inquiry had been received regarding pictures of the "Celebration of Success" event. Pictures were made available to pupils via Teams shortly after the event. A note was made for 2024 to put information out to parents as well.

Emails of volunteers for advice on interviews, careers, and post-high-school options have been received with thanks.

It was noted with regret that due to a shortage of volunteers a Burns Supper could not be organised.

5. Head team update

The head team updated the parent council on activities in the run-up to Christmas, including:

- Head team conference at inspire Tweedbank
- School concert
- Senior citizens tea party
- S6 Christmas dinner
- School dances

Looking to the new year:

- Our new head teacher
- Focus on exams for senior pupils
- Prelims assembly hosted by the head team to reassure pupils and make people aware of the support available in the school

- School show
- For S6's planning is under way for:
 - House and sports events
 - Prom
 - S6 leavers evening
 - End of year trip

6. Headteacher update

Mrs Jill McDonald reported that she is looking forward to welcoming Mr Johnson.

The school fully staffed except for a vacancy in the maths department, which has been readvertised.

7. Well-being and Respectful Relationships policy

Mrs Judith Weston presented the findings of the Glasgow Wellbeing Survey, which looked at a range of different factors related to student wellbeing.

Several parents and staff vociferously commented about how useful this data is, to understand where the school is doing well and where improvements can be made. It was also remarked that even where the average was high, some cohorts marked it down. As part of this, parents added comments for the anti-bullying statement. There was extensive discussion on the findings from the survey, including description of some of the measures currently being actioned to improve wellbeing and inclusion:

- Attendance / pupil support officers
- Additional CCTV
- Principal Teacher duty rota covering every period
- Merit points system for positive praise
- Pupil Parliament
- Rights Respecting Charter
- See Me Mental Health ambassadors

The survey will be completed twice a year (November and March). Once the full year's data is available, it will allow for comparisons to be made with the national findings.

In light of the value of comprehensive data, the PC agreed to fund incentives consisting of two £50 Amazon vouchers, one for BGE pupils one for Senior Phase pupils.

8. AOB

Issues with parking congestion were raised, and the PC joins the school in encouraging parents to minimise driving onto campus during the busy pick-up period where not necessary.

The date of the next meeting is to be advised by Mrs Jill McDonald. (Since confirmed to be 9 May 2024.)