

**Deans Community High School**  
**Parent Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

**Attendees**

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Dawn Fleming, Patricia Miller, Janice Ritchie, Heather Marriott

**Apologies**

Mark Cockburn, Caroline Bennett, Susan Begley, Alison Hatcher, Stacey McCallum, Caroline Bleach (DHT), Sandra Fannon

**Agenda:**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Review of the Minutes from previous Meeting**
- 4. Dawn Fleming – recovery in literacy and numeracy**
- 5. Parental feedback**
- 6. Head Teacher's update**
- 7. AOCB**

1. **Welcome**

AR welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**

As stated above. Caroline Bennett is no longer able to attend the Parent Council but will continue to receive a copy of the minutes.

3. **Review of Previous Minutes**

Previous minutes were accepted. Anne Runciman thanked the Parent Council for the flowers she received recently. PA spoke to the bus company regarding the Seafield bus. There will always be two buses going forward and they will leave later in time to allow students time to get to the bus.

4. **Recovery in Literacy and Numeracy**

The Recovery Group is now set up and underway. The group includes Head of Mathematics, Head of English, Sarah Saum & Dawn Fleming.

For S1/S2 Literacy – there will be a baseline test then a programme check throughout the year in December, March & May. For S1/S2 Mathematics – there will be a baseline test then a 6 week block revisiting missing areas with a view to assess and improve. There will be a dedicated period for both Literacy and Numeracy to aid recovery in addition to the standard 4 periods a week. Senior Phase – there will be target grades with study support identifying gaps in knowledge and measures for improvements.

Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing are the three key headers which are discussed at a Council level to ensure collaboration, sharing of best practises and standardised approaches across all schools. For literacy and numeracy there are baseline road maps to follow. For Health & Wellbeing it is different since every child has had different experiences and difficulties.

Teachers have been trained on mental health first aid and are very aware to look for changes in pupils' moods and behaviours.

AR confirmed her answers to the recent pandemic wellbeing survey would be different now to what she submitted at the time. PA took an action to review the survey.

## **5. Parental Feedback**

A school parent contacted AR following the last Parent Council meeting to highlight that although happy with DCHS not all schools were consistent with the process followed in lieu of SQA exams. AR confirmed as Parent Council members we were kept informed and up to date with what was happening with SQL and how DCHS were ensuring consistency across the school. PA added DCHS kept to the guidance to ensure fair and consistency across all students. This included October and December assessments where evidence was gathered with continual feedback to students. DCHS took the opportunity to break down topics into smaller chunks so there were a lot of assessments and not just one exam. The conversations with the students regarding final grades went well.

Plan moving forward is ongoing assessments making sure students are given feedback with specific areas of improvements.

## **6. Update from HT**

### **1. Staffing**

7 new teachers started at the beginning of term:

Jake Cameron PE Probationer

Greg Cherry PE Temporary for 1 year

Helen Marshall English Probationer

Jo Neilson Home Economics Probationer

Kelly Smith Business Education Probationer

Craig Walton Computing Probationer

Chelsea Welsh English Probationer

Kristen Lynch (business education) leaves on 10<sup>th</sup> September to take a post closer to home. Her post has been advertised and we hope to appoint asap.

We have been given a total of 3 FTE (full time equivalent) funding for additional teachers from Scottish Government for this session. This is being used as follows:

1 FTE Greg Cherry

1 FTE Jodie Cunningham – History

1 FTE Support Teacher – TBC

Scottish Government have now committed to funding one of these posts on a permanent basis. The History post has been advertised as a permanent post and will be interviewed on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

## 2. SQA Results

Students achieved a very good set of results this year, particularly given the difficult year they experienced.

Figures shown below are a percentage of the number of students in that year group when they were in S4.

<b>S4 SQA (A-C) 5+ passes at National 5</b>					
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
34%	38%	32%	36%	40%	38%

<b>S4 SCQF 5+ passes at National 5 or equivalent</b>					
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
41%	50%	49%	57%	56%	50%

### S5 results

<b>SCQF 5+ passes at Higher or equivalent</b>							
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
16%	20%	21%	21%	33%	34%	33%	39%

<b>SCQF 3+ passes at Higher or equivalent</b>							
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
29%	39%	33%	36%	50%	51%	45%	54%

<b>SCQF 1+ passes at Higher or equivalent</b>							
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
48%	66%	56%	53%	66%	67%	60%	70%

<b>SQA (A-C) 5+ passes at Higher</b>						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
9%	14%	6%	16%	7%	17%	16%

SQA (A-C) 3+ passes at Higher						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
30%	27%	24%	34%	23%	33%	37%

SQA (A-C) 1+ passes at Higher						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
50%	43%	43%	56%	49%	47%	53%

### S6 Advanced Higher

SQA (A-C) 1+ passes at Advanced Higher						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
14%	18%	18%	18%	16%	15%	19%

### 3. COVID-19

Weekly HT meetings with Heads of Service are continuing for the time being. This forum is working well in keeping all up to date with changes and an opportunity to raise concerns/questions.

Continuing to encourage students and staff to use LFD tests twice weekly.

Some confusion among parents over govt changes to self-isolation policy. PSA answering queries as parents contact the school. Some positive cases within the school community and the new NHS 'warn and inform' letters are being issued to staff and parents as and when required. HT continues to liaise closely with the West Lothian Covid response team over this.

### 4. Priorities for 2021/22

Priorities are focused on recovery, mainly around the 3 areas of literacy, numeracy and health and well being. Fuller details will be discussed at the next parent council meeting, in advance of submitted the School Improvement Plan to West Lothian Council.

### 7. AOCB

Twilight study sessions will go ahead.

Music camp not booked and unlikely to go ahead this session.

**Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 18:00 via Skype for Business.**