

Minutes of Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council Meeting  
Monday 16 September 2024  
Library, Wallace Hall Academy, Thornhill

Present: Jane Valentine (Treasurer & Chair), Maria Navarro de Sepulveda, Mrs Gray, Mr Graham, Laura Keenan, Leah Belford, Jillian Maxwell, Mark Ingram, Dr Ray Fulton, Sammy Austen, Alicia Hood, Alice Stilgoe

Item	Details	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b>  Apologies: Emily McClennan, Luan Jaupi, Caroline O’Hara, Sharon Young, Calvin Ruysen</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of previous minutes</b>  Previous minutes were approved by Jillian and Maria</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b>  Leah Belford updated the parent council on an email correspondence from Alison Gordon regarding funding for the orchard.</p> <p>Laura to raise Home Link provision at the Parent Council forum meeting on 17 September. Barry Graham recommended speaking to Ewan Mack in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Barry Graham to ask Ewan Mack to call Laura</p>
	<p>Laura reported back from the meeting about rationalising the school estate. Laura reported that the attempt to bring the school estate up to date and fit for purpose, is likely to result in the closure of smaller schools. A decision will be taken in the December DGC meeting.  Barry comments that the impact of smaller schools closing could have an impact on bigger schools eg WHP as they take children from cluster schools.</p>	<p>Barry Graham to circulate slides. Suggests looking at pages towards the end.</p> <p>Laura to circulate slides of meeting she attended</p>
	<p><b>Structure of the School week consultation</b>  Discussion about the proposed asymmetric week and its pros and cons.</p>	<p>Jane to circulate document.</p>
	<p><b>WHA SQA Results</b>  Dr Ray Fulton gave a presentation about the recent exam results, including a detailed explanation of the curriculum model and digital tracking that WHA has implemented to support all children achieve their potential.</p> <p>Mark enquired about work experience and apprenticeships. Barry explained that there is a targeted rather than universal approach due to capacity and health and safety issues, and regrettably unable to support all children into these pathways, but there are some opportunities, including through Cample Line and the HALO Trust.</p>	

	<p><b>School Improvement Plan</b> Barry presented a one page info-graphic about the school's improvement plan.</p>	
	<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b> <b>Fundraising</b> Gillian has sent an email about Christmas cards. <b>Travel Planning and Safety</b> Some potholes have been filled. Jane has produced an updated report about road safety and a meeting this week with Jane and Barry. Thanks to Jane for all her work on this. Trees need to be cut back to make 20 mile signage visible on entering East Morton Street.</p>	
	<p><b>Headteacher's Report</b> <b>ELC</b> Welcome lots of new families and two new staff members, Miss Gray and Miss Robertson. There are currently 40 pupils in ELC. ELC has been asked to accept 2 year olds. Some adjustments need to be made, but ELC is likely to welcome 2 year olds in the near future. . At present the focus is on health and wellbeing and settling into daily routines. Another topic is animals and they hope to invite ZooLab to nursery this year. <b>Primary</b> Welcome all new pupils including 16 new P1s. Working towards Rights' gold accreditation. P7 are enjoying Bikeability. <b>Secondary</b> Welcome to our headboys and girls. We have a new New prefect team, with 80 pupils involved, with varied responsibilities which all contribute to the smooth running of the school. There was a recent trip to Iceland and coming up there is a physics trip to Alton Towers and S2 history trip to Belfast.  Alicia asked why the S1 residential trip did not go ahead. Barry reported that the feedback from pupils was poor and that the cost did not justify the outcome. Parents who had children who had gone on the S1 trip reported that it was a significant event and wondered if an alternative option could be considered.  Mark commented that in the past there has been a short turn around between the announcement of a trip and payment due. It was noted that dates for known trips were listed in the September newsletter.</p>	

	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b>  The Primary balance is £1056 (of which £440 is ring fenced for books) and the Academy is £671..</p> <p>Jane explained that D&amp;G PC Finance Allocation is changing and expects to receive an update from Vanessa Morris on 17 September.</p> <p>Year end accounts ready. To be signed off by Dawn Stirk for AGM.</p> <p>Jane circulated the Wallace Hall Parent Council Constitution prior to the meeting as it is due to be reviewed every 3 years. Approved with no amendments.</p>	Jane to update PC
	<p><b>Response to 'Projects' Letter</b>  In Calvin's absence, Barry reported that Calvin has been working with the school to identify areas that would help to improve the school. A letter was sent to parents at the end of last term with a brief description of 15 topics.</p>	Barry and Calvin to meet next week to plan next steps.
	<p><b>New Chair Required for PC</b>  Emily is standing down as chair at AGM.</p>	Jane to send note to group. All – try to recruit more PC members.
	<p><b>AOCB</b>  Alice raised the topic of mobile phone policy in context of the Scottish Government's support for schools to limit or ban mobile phones in schools.</p> <p>Mark said that Douglas Ewart High School in Castle Douglas where he teaches introduced a ban on use of phones on the school estate last term. Aside from increased reliance on school laptops which can be frustrating, it has been in large part a very positive move, and one of the outcomes has been a reduction in vaping.</p>	Add discussion of mobile policy as an agenda point at the next meeting
	<p><b>DONM</b>  Monday 7 October 7pm, Wallace Hall Academy TBC</p>	