

**Wallace High School PTN**  
**Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 at 7pm in the Wallace Room**  
**Notes of Meeting**

1. **Attendees:** Maureen Firth, Kitty Gallan, Jackie Gee-Faulkner, Valerie Martin, Isabel Vanweer, Kathryn Fraser, Wendy Mackinnon, Susan McKenzie, Helen Hawthorn, Karen Morrison, Alison McGregor, Caroline McEwan, Viv Hanson, Alison Gow, Janet Laverty, Kirsten Birkin, Sandra Hayashibara, Jane Riley, Jennifer Bairner, Gill King, Mr Pennock, Mrs Harris
2. **Apologies:** Rachel Metcalfe, Jen Adams, Karen Dunn
3. **Welcome from Chairperson (Kitty)**  
Kitty welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee. PTN stands for Parent Teachers Network and the leaflet explains what we do.
4. **Matters Arising from Last Meeting**  
None.
5. **Fara's Award (Gill)**  
Gill brought in the "Fara McAfee award for creativity". Fara was our chair and she died this time last year. This award has been commissioned by the PTN in memory of Fara for creativity in its widest sense. Principle teachers nominated individuals and Sandy (Fara's husband) and Fara's two sisters chose the winner. There will also be a certificate for the runners up. Sandy will hand out the award for the first year. A big thank you to Gill for choosing the award.
6. **Treasurer's Report (Jane)**  
£500 made over the year taking into account all expenses including the award. No money has been drawn from the bank in the previous year.
7. **Fundraising Report (Jen)**
  - WHS Sponsored Walk – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
The PTN will buy some water for pupils who haven't brought anything in. We will also supply sweets (around 950 pupils this year). Walk takes approx. 1 hour around the University. Pupils are a credit to the school and funds raised come into the school for funds. We currently have 4 volunteer helpers so far. If anyone can help, let Jen know. Starts at 9.30am through to approx. 11.30am. Volunteers should be at the school for 9am. If every pupil raises £5, we should manage to get £5,000. Helps to fund the reward trips. Normally back in class for period 4. Tickets from the Vue Cinema (family of 4) for the winner – pupil who raises the most amount of sponsor money. Need to remind pupils to bring their own water. Ochil House have their own route – specific for each individual.
  - Winter Family Ceilidh featuring Reelin'  
Ceilidh planned for Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 here in the school. Cost of the band is being sponsored. Need to sell between 100 and 150 tickets for the event to make it worthwhile. Trying to get prizes for an executive raffle – 5 or 6 really good prizes. If anyone knows anyone who would donate, let us know. Price of the tickets suggested as £30 for a family of 4 which includes food (stovies). Baking donated by PTN would also be on tables. Bar (manned by ex-pupils) will be available for sale of drinks. Also hope to have a couple of stalls to make it Christmassy – jewellery, cards, etc. Thought about getting some dancers for entertainment to showcase the wonderful dancers at

the school. If anyone wants to help out, let us know. Really need to sell the tickets. Money raised will go to the Ocean Trust initiative (see later in minutes). After discussion, £10 adult and £5 child ticket suggested and £25 for family ticket. If anyone knows of anyone who will donate an executive prize, or we could write to, or if you want to write to, let us know.

#### 8. **Communications (Sandra)**

Leaflet shows the different lines of communication – facebook page which we try to update with anything important including meetings; twitter account; and website which the school has put on the back of their main website. Please share/like us on facebook and twitter. Email us through the PTN website – this comes directly to the Secretary. If anyone wants to see anything on the website, let us know or drop us an email. This is Sandra's last year at the school and if anyone is interested in helping during the current year, please let Sandra know.

#### 9. **Homework Group & Policy/Practice (Mrs Harris)**

- Revisited in line with the curriculum for excellence. Group met and produced a policy which gives general guidelines re expectations. Document shows a generic view across all subjects. There is no real change in that our expectations are very high and believe that homework is an opportunity to continue learning outside school – helps to raise attainment. Want to encourage good habits in junior school to take them into senior school. Want to encourage pupils to be more independent and seek out information themselves. If no homework, policy encourages pupils to do something else themselves outwith school. Don't have exclusively paper based tasks – might be to watch, read, research, or listen to something. Want tasks to be more active or give a choice for homework task.
- Another part of the policy is meaningful feedback to homework – use self assessment, peer assessment, including verbal and build in learning targets.
- Homework diaries are becoming less used – Edmodo is used more in school but not in all subjects and by all teachers. School will be sponsoring an on-line support called "*show my homework*" – on-line tool which covers all subjects under one login. There is an app for phones, it is on twitter, and "*show my homework*" is motivational and a large company with appropriate expertise. We plan to work through setting homework for broad general education (S1-S3) for introduction from October for teachers. Changes are in line with curriculum. What we used to spend on diaries is now going to be used for this on-line system (no real additional cost). Parents can check what is there – green if homework has been done, red if not. Will take time to set it up properly. System will be piloted this year but full implementation will take place for the next academic year. Teachers would have access to whole school homework – can set it up to help share resources. For parents, the system shows how many days are left to hand homework in – using red, green system. System can also be used for quality assurance – checking how well homework is being done, showing the range of homework that can be done.

#### 10. **Headteacher's Report (Scott)**

- School has a team who work with our Young Carers who may support a relative, mother or father, on building skills including cookery, etc. We intend to organise a trip through Ocean Youth Trust. The group would support our young carers throughout the year building on skills required to man a ship/voyage off the west coast of Scotland at the end of the school term. We have successfully bid for Children in Need funding through Adele McCallum and Suzanne Harris (£5000). Meeting to be held with Ocean Youth Trust in the next couple of weeks. Need another £1500. PTN have promised to help with this initiative (formal request has been presented to Kitty tonight by Scott). In June 2016, we plan to hold the voyage – open to only certain individuals, e.g. those who can go away from home (emotionally). Great opportunity for those pupils who

have a hard life. 10 pupils will benefit (we currently have around 15 on the group). Try to target those who are senior pupils to help give them life-skills.

- Mrs Harris suggested encouraging school groups to write to the PTN for help and this would allow us to identify initiatives to fund/support in the future.
- Exam performance for the year has been excellent. Standards and Quality report will be published by end September. New national way of measuring was introduced last year "insight" – due to be published this Friday but only captures the first round of results and won't show the full complement of results (these will show by February 2016). Insight data breaks data down and compares us to similar schools nationally, e.g. comparing like for like schools, high level schools with high level schools. Results are higher than last year and are a testament to the good work put in by pupils. School is currently working with those pupils who were disappointed in results and need to reconsider their future.
- Attendance has been retained at 91%+ which is excellent. Very big S5 and S6 – bigger than previous years. Our challenge is to be able to provide resources for the courses requested by our pupils.
- Need to maintain teacher numbers. Where staff retire, the level of numbers needs to be maintained, otherwise school can be fined.
- Parents are encouraged to keep an eye on consultation events and give their voice regarding the priority based budgeting. More cuts are expected within education.
- Getting our new mentoring up and running for coming year.
- S4 information evening on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September for parents to find out about exams, etc.
- School roll is currently 964 pupils and includes Ochil House. Capacity is approx. 1200. We are in an area of projected house building and our roll should remain healthy – keeps our staffing high.
- New 3G pitch is functional and fully booked out – money goes to the Council but Wallace High has the advantage of being able to use the pitch during the day.
- 5 probationary teachers this year. Full list noted in Flourish at the end of the summer. Attempting to appoint a permanent Physics teacher. Mr McGinley has a temporary promoted post at Bannockburn High but we have a replacement for this year.
- 33 period week – all schools in Clacks and Stirling need to move by next session. Some started this term but we didn't because we didn't need to make the savings just now. We will move next year whilst waiting on approval on constraints for the day (includes bus provision). 2 long days (Monday, Tuesday) and 3 short days (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). Feedback sought on consultation of when periods fit with lunches each day. 6 periods on short days and 7 periods on long days. Start of each day will remain as 9am. Hope to discuss with parent council, email, pupil council (and year groups), staff, then correlate results and make a decision. Will start with new timetables in May 2016. By next meeting hope to have feedback from the authority. Transport contracts are currently out to tender.

#### 11. **A.O.B.**

- Cluster partnerships: Bannockburn & Dunblane and Wallace – will we be sharing resources for advanced higher this year?

We have the option to share where one school can't offer and another can – we can move pupils to a school where a subject is offered. Partnership can work like this, but for advanced highers, we can go to e.g. St Modans and Stirling High. We only do this if we don't offer the subject. Teaching hours for advanced higher maths is currently only 2 periods per week and this is a concern – allocated what we can allocate with the resource we have. More is offered in English because there are more teachers including Mr Pennock and Mrs Harris who can help with advanced higher English. There is a lot of independent study involved with advanced highers. Across the complement of high schools in Stirling, it is the case that 2 or 3 periods of teaching is offered for advanced highers.

- Is anything being done to improve the bike storage facilities? Are there grants available through Stirling Cycle Hub?  
Problem is where and how we do it. FES will need to agree any structure and put the structure in place. We have looked at it before and probably won't get individual lockers because of the cost. Perhaps the PTN could help with this. **Action: Scott agreed to take the question up with Paul Ramsay.**
- Is the school introducing extra seating in the atrium?  
Had other work recently done throughout the school - furniture upgrades, wall and display work. Want some flexible bench seating in the atrium. Need to finish planned works before we start something else.
- Has the school banned branded food within the school – e.g. Dominos, etc? Yes, we encourage healthy eating. Waiting on the introduction of the new on-line payment system. School has no control on when this will happen – waiting on the Council to implement. A big push is being made on the Health and Wellbeing group and trying to do something through pupils.

12. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm