

Wallace High School PTN
Notes of Meeting held at 7pm on 8th September 2014

Scott Pennock opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming along (good attendance). He intimated that, following the recent death of Fara McAfee (previous Chairperson of the PTN) during the summer holidays, that he would chair this meeting. It was acknowledged the good work that Fara had done as Chairperson of the PTN and within the school. As the funeral had only taken place last week, the committee felt it would be better to leave the election of the Chairperson until the next meeting.

If anyone is interested in being the chair, please email the PTN to find out information on how to go about this.

1. Attendees: Scott Pennock (Headteacher), Maureen Firth (Secretary), Kitty Adams (Treasurer), Coleen Swagar, Jackie Gee-Faulkner, Viv Hanson, Rachel Metcalfe, Alison McGregor, Radu Clapuci, Kath McMaster, Sandra Hayashibara (Communications), Jane Riley (Communications), Lynne Goldie, Sung-Ju Jung, Julie Lopes, Celia Mosales, Valerie Muirhead, Alison McFarlane, Sarah Shaw, Rubina Shaheen Afzal, Gill King, Jennifer Bairner, Helen Hawthorn, Janet Laverty, Julie Craig, Janet Stott, Karen Dunn, Caroline McEwan
2. Apologies: Jen Adams, Alison Notman
3. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Clarification on budget savings and potential PBB options by Mr Pennock.

Stirling Council had asked school to keep parents up-to-date on the wider financial situation. The Council set targets to reduce budgets across all services – and education will have to make proportionate savings.

Wallace High has already been making savings across the board over recent years, in line with all schools. Approx 3 years ago, each secondary school was set a savings target of c. £150,000 – this has been increased in the interim to over £200,000 per annum. We still aim to deliver a diverse curriculum and offer students desired course choices.

Scottish government have protected teacher numbers – changes cannot be made, however, this may not always be the case and savings naturally result in less flexibility over certain resources – this includes support staff and the ability to appoint any additional teaching staff. Mr Pennock liaises with Paul Ramsay/Business Manager to work with budget targets etc.

If cuts keep coming, this may in the future impact on key choices. It is important that we, as parents, have a say on future PBB options at council level. We will continue to look at running curriculum more efficiently – working with other

schools or colleges to centralise certain subjects (applies mostly to Advanced Highers).

Budget consultations have been done at Council level (includes all parts of Council services) – important that we as parents attend budget engagement events.

- b. PTN Insurance – close item in the interim until we need insurance for an external event.
- c. Duke of Edinburgh leaflet – Mrs Auldjo confirmed that information on DofE was issued at the beginning of each term. She is currently chasing students re DofE catch ups to sign off the component parts of DofE. She is happy to re-send this out as a reminder – information on DofE is on the school website. Sandra/Jane to put a link to DofE onto the PTN website. DofE is offered from S3 stage. Mr Gracie is taking over when Mrs Auldjo goes on maternity leave.
Action: Sandra/Jane to put link to DofE on PTN website
- d. PTN website – is linked under the parental section to Wallace High website. We post meeting agenda, minutes and news on it. Contact details for PTN are attached.
- e. Welly Boot race in conjunction with Kidney Kids (replaced the PTN sponsored walk) – a big thank you for everyone who supported. There were 2400 participants. Although we didn't manage the record attempt, we are the Scottish record holders and 2nd in the world. Hopefully it has raised lots of money for the school and for the charity. An update will be given at the next meeting. The event was advertised on Radio Scotland, Heart FM, STV and the BBC. It was a good event and great that all the cluster primaries took part. Thanks to parents who helped out. If anyone has ideas for an event in the future, let us know.

Action: Maureen to add to agenda for next meeting

4. Headteacher's Report by Mr Pennock

- a. Schools Standards & Quality Report – we need to wait until we get exam data to complete the report. Insight is the new system to measure success. Reporting on exam results for this year is complicated because we will be using a mix of traditional measures and new Insight measures as we are building in the new National 5 results. The new Insight system enables us to capture positive destinations, attainment against different backgrounds that pupils come from, and it is designed to equip schools with more information on elements of their success. Council also publishes data on exams. Insight data was only published at the end of

last week.

- b. National 4/5 exams – this was the first year for the new exams. We retained our traditional Highers for last year (the big measure for pupils moving to University). Wallace will be moving to the new Higher exams for this coming year. An S4 information evening will be held to let parents know the process on 15 September at 7pm in the Theatre.

- c. S4 group – traditionally, exams are measured against pupils achieving 5 results at level 3 (equivalent to old Foundation), 5 at level 4 (General) and 5 at level 5 (Credit). National results for Wallace:

5 at level 3	2010-12 (3 yr average) - 87%
	2013 - 93%
	2014 - 96%

Our results for last year have improved significantly. The biggest area to target was the 5 at level 4.

5 at level 4	2010-12 (3 yr average) - 59%
	2013 - 67%
	2014 - 90%.

5 at level 5	2010-12 (3 yr average) – 28%
	2013 - 34%
	2014 - 36%

We traditionally had pupils perform well at the ‘high’ end. These are excellent results for the school as we believe the qualifications got even harder for many pupils this year.

- d. S5 group – Standards are traditionally based on achieving 1, 3, or 5 Highers. Higher results for Wallace:

1 Higher	2010-12 (3 yr average) - 38%
	2013 - 38%
	2014 - 46%

3 Highers	2010-12 (3 yr average) - 23%
	2013 - 24%
	2014 - 28%

5 Highers	2010-12 (3 yr average) – 12%
	2013 - 8%
	2014 - 16%

- e. S6 group – this is a less accurate indicator because of personalised options. Pupils might choose to do a college option, sports leader, etc. Core measure is the number of students who achieve Advanced Highers – Wallace results moved from

9% to 11% on this measure.

- f. We have raised expectations from pupils and our aim is to sustain the 3 year averages. Hope to use the first year of new exams to sustain and improve performance. Teachers and pupils found it challenging to manage all the assessments last year and will use this as a learning curve and try to plan better this year and build in more efficient prelims.
 - g. School attendance figure for last session is just under 92% - 5 years ago it was an area for focus and is much improved. Positive destinations – college, university - is up by 6% from last year. Figures for this year will be available in February 2015.
 - h. Facilities – on a rolling basis, we try to update facilities across all faculties . Over the summer holidays, we did work in science, social subjects, RMPS and maths. Work will continue in maths, music and RMPS until the October holidays. We aim to keep investing in all areas across the school on a rolling basis.
 - i. Finance report - once we agree on a new Chairperson, the budget report for the coming year will be communicated to the PTN showing areas where we invested money for last year.
 - j. Staffing update – no news. Staff planned absence in PE has been filled by a temporary appointment.
 - k. S1 numbers – how do they compare with previous years? – 170 roll which is good. 920 roll for the total school. Projected to rise over the next couple of years. We still retain the vast majority of pupils from feeder schools and have attracted pupils through placing requests. The September roll affects staffing levels. Schools are staffed on a formula – on a proportionate basis – if we have a rising roll, we will get more staff.
5. Treasurer’s Report by Helen Hawthorn
Funds in PTN account are £1733. In last year made just over £600 providing refreshments at events. Balance sheet is attached to the minutes. Kitty will take over the role as Treasurer from this meeting.
6. Future Events – dates for information
- 30 Oct: S1 Parents Night
 - 9 Dec: Junior Dance
 - 17 Dec: Christmas Concert pupils performing across peer-groups.
 - 18 Dec: Senior Dance

- Christmas Fayre: date to be organised

7. A.O.B.

a. Role of the PTN – communicate things are happening in the school and with parents. Meet approx every 6 weeks. Replaces the old PTA/School Board role. We are here to raise concerns by parents with the school. We have a website (as mentioned above), facebook account and a twitter account to communicate with parents. The Parent Councils are set up to enable schools to reconstitute. At Wallace, we are fairly flexible and enable parents to engage with the school in fundraising, communications, feedback concerns and share in information. Mr Pennock attends meetings to feedback information and answer parent questions. However, if anyone has a concern about a specific pupil, phone and speak to Principal Teacher, Depute or the Head-teacher. If there is a broader point, the PTN is a good forum to do that. The PTN has helped with information nights on certain topic if parents don't understand issues, e.g. new National 5 exams, as well as helping fundraising at school shows, etc. The role of the PTN is summarised on the parent zone website – there is a link to this on our PTN page. The role is described as:

- support the school in its work with pupils
- represent the views of all parents
- encourage links between the school, parents, pupils & the wider community
- report back to all the parents in the school
- play a role in the appointment of head teachers & depute head teachers
- support the school & pupils during school inspections

b. Pupils leaving school at lunchtime – a discussion was held regarding S1 pupils being allowed to leave the school at lunchtime at the beginning of term, which led to debate on whether S1 and S2 pupils should be allowed out at all. Discussion was also based on the healthy eating issue. It was noted that catering within the school is controlled centrally through Stirling Council. Mr Pennock intimated the intention to try the Parent Pay scheme (an online system to allow parents to put money on pupils' cards online) which would allow parents to control lunches better. Mr Pennock suggested asking the Catering Manager to come along to discuss healthy lunches at our next meeting.

Action: Scott to organise Catering Manager to come along to next meeting.

It would be good for the school to promote healthy eating – this is encouraged through theme days at lunchtime, linking the curriculum through the school of sport and home economics, etc.

If parents feel passionate enough about keeping S1s in school at lunchtime, this

could be explored for the new school term, after consultation with parents.

- c. Security at lunchtimes – Mr Pennock and Mr Cordiner regularly patrol Causewayhead park, the Co-op and Corrieri's when pupils leave school at lunchtimes. PC Brown also walks the regular areas and helps police any issues. Reminders are given to pupils about crossing the road safely, picking up litter and encouraging pupils to be back at school on time. It was suggested that more signage could be explored to help reduce road users' speed near the school.
- d. Gate at the rear of the school – this is locked at home time to stop pupils crossing over the grass. The gate is there for users of the school facilities after school time.
- e. A thank from parents was given to the school for the various events run for parents over the last year, i.e. workshops for parents re new exams, Mindfulness presentation, Junior awards ceremony and encouraging school values.
- f. The Senior School Awards will be held this Thursday, 11th September 2014. Gary Hunter, ex-pupil of Wallace, is the key speaker. He currently works in London and is Executive Producer of Top Gear.
- g. Dyslexia Scotland Event at Alva Academy – Wed, 24th September at Alva Academy (details attached)

8. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28th October 2014 at 7pm

Attachments:

Wallace High School PTN contact details

Dyslexia Scotland flyer

Signed and approved accounts to 5/8/14

**WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER NETWORK (PTN)**

'Like' Us on Facebook for Updates through Newsfeeds



Wallace High School Parent Teacher Network



'Follow' Us on Twitter



@WallaceHighPTN

Wallace High PTN Website

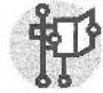
ptn.wallacehigh.org.uk

Wallace High PTN E-mail Address

wallacehighptn@gmail.com

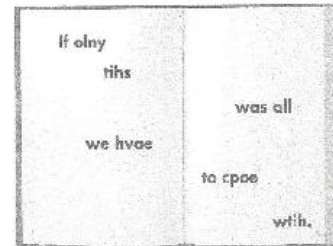
(or e-mail through PTN website)

Dyslexia Scotland Forth Valley



**Wednesday 24
September, 7pm**

**Alva Academy,
Academy Avenue, Alva,
Clacks FK12 5FE**



Dr Gavin Reid

Tips for parents – developing the 'feel-good' factor.

- Motivate children with dyslexia to learn
- Address self-esteem and behavioural issues
- Understand learning differences

Gavin Reid is an internationally renowned Educational Psychologist.
Find out more at www.drgavinreid.com

Everyone is very welcome to this free event.

Dyslexia Scotland 01786 446650

www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

Helpline phone number: 0844 800 84 84

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Dyslexia Scotland

Wallace High PTN 2013-14

Date	BGC	Income	£	Date	CHQ	Expenditure	£	Invoice/receipt
		Balance brought forward	1,107.38					
14/11/13		Licence refund	10.00 L2 ✓	28/10/13	2	Licence	10.00 L1 ✓	
30/11/13		Winter fayre fundraising	189.71	07/11/13		refreshments for school events	4.00 R1 ✓	
18/12/13		Christmas concert fundraising	378.60	14/11/13		Licence	10.00 L3 ✓	
19/03/14		sale of refreshments	99.70	28/11/13		refreshments for school events	20.94 R2 ✓	
02/04/14		sale of refreshments	71.80	16/12/13		refreshments for school events	137.43 R3 ✓	
21/05/14		sale of refreshments	37.80	17/12/13		Licence	10.00 L4 ✓	
24/06/14		sale of refreshments	128.60	22/01/14	3	refreshments for school events	110.00 R4 ✓	
25/06/14		sale of refreshments	156.66	13/02/14		Licences	20.00 L5 ✓	
				18/03/14		refreshments for school events	39.06 R5 ✓	
				09/05/14		Licence	10.00 L6 ✓	
				23/06/14		refreshments for school events	71.88 R6 ✓	
				24/06/14		refreshments for school events	3.87 R7 ✓	
		Total	2,180.25 ✓				447.18 ✓	
		Income less expenditure	1,733.07 ✓					
		Bank Account 05/08/14	1703.07					
		Cash in box 05/08/14	30.00					
		Total	1733.07 ✓					

Checked and confirmed as correct

Gillian McKenzie 26/8/2014

(GILLIAN MCKENZIE)