Minutes for School Council meetings 2013-2014

October ‘13

Appendix 3: **Pro-forma for Year Council Agenda**

Year group: 8 Time & date of meeting: 14:15pm 21/11/2013

Venue: Room 124

1/. School Issue:

Eco issues in Wallace High School and what we can do to make the school more Eco-friendly

Amy suggested that at the sides of the gates are surrounded with growing plants, vegetable, ECT

Holly suggested that we have a day that we all plant vegetables/ trees, ECT

2/. Form Issue:

Election of chairperson and secretary of the council -

chairperson = Joe McCormick.

Secretary = Bethany Dumican

3/. Pupil issue(s):

Any pupil issues that have arisen since last meeting of council

No time to discuss pupil issues

Compiled by:

Chairperson. joe McCormick\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Bethany Dumican \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Council feedback Yr9

Pupils have requested that another water fountain be installed in the link, more My Card machines throughout the school and a member of staff monitor the queues closely in the canteen as older pupils are bunking.

Pupils have requested that the canteen put baguettes back on the menu and to reduce the queues, have more staff or even some sixth form volunteers taking my card payments.

They also requested a sandwich bar where they could choose the contents of their sandwiches.

To address Eco Issues for the Wallace High School, they have suggested creating a whole school Eco Council where representatives from each Year Group take it in turns who switch off lights, computers and pick up litter at break or lunch.

They've also requested whole school training on use of specific bins for recycling throughout the school.

K Reid

**Minutes of Year 11 Council Meeting October 2013**

**Time and Date of Meeting:** 02/10/13 14.15

**Present:**

Clarissa Browne Anna Farrelly Ruth Hanna Amy Montgomery

Callum Ash Andrew Dumigan Jacob Hermon Owen Mathieson

Claire Murphy Joshua McCoy-Johnston Cameron Ringland Mrs E Rogers

**Welcome**

ER welcomed everyone to the 1st meeting and outlined the role and purpose of Year 11 Council.

Each council member explained why they wanted to be members.

ER described the role of the Chairperson and Secretary.

**Nomination & Voting**

AD & OM put themselves forward for the role of Chairperson and were seconded by AF and JH respectively

Following a vote, AD was elected chair with 6 votes to 5

CM & CB put themselves forward for the role of Secretary and were seconded by AD and OM respectively

Following a vote, CB was elected chair with 6 votes to 5

Green council badges were given to AD and CB in recognition of their new role.

ER informed AD and CB they would attend the Health Fair in Lisburn Library next Wednesday and have their photo taken to represent the rest of the year.

ER explained that as Chair and Secretary, AD and CB would attend an Executive Council meeting, to be held by Mrs O’Hare, which will discuss issues brought up during the year by council. This will occur once per term.

**Form Issue: Transition to GCSE Year**

The council agreed that there had been a huge jump in the amount of homework given and that they were finding they needed to be a lot more organised this year. They agreed that teachers expected them to be more independent. Many are finding work more accessible due to dropping subjects they didn’t like / found difficult in Junior School.

Pupils are pleased that subject support / study groups for subjects are available, and would like an option for support at the end of each topic covered in class. It was highlighted that although they enjoyed having the ipad for research purposes and for access to resources on My Big Campus, the majority of members preferred to take notes down on paper. This led to a discussion that pupils would prefer a jotter rather than file paper, similar to subject jotters in junior school.

Some pupils stated that they felt awkward asking for help in front of their peers in class, and suggested a help box could be made available in classrooms so they could discreetly let the teacher know they didn’t understand something. There were mixed views about the traffic light system to indicate whether they needed help or not.

**Whole school issue: Eco Issues**

The council agreed that ipads eliminated the need for lots of paper.

It was felt that there are not enough opportunities to recycle waste.

Members questioned why radiators were put on in May.

**Closing**

ER informed the council that the Chair and Secretary should write up future minutes and agendas for meetings and all council members would feedback to their class.

ER will complete this month’s minutes and email Mrs Dumigan, Mr Atkinson and Year 11.

The meeting closed at 14.50

**E Rogers**

Here are the names of the Year 14 Council:

Year 14 Council  2013/2014

1. Chris Crawford
2. Alison Dark
3. Aaron Dumican
4. Hannah Jess
5. Lydia Kerr - Secretary
6. Maddie McRoberts
7. Natasha Michaelides
8. Jessica Purdy
9. Fraser Rodgers - Chairperson

Brian Weir

November ‘13

Year 10 Council Meeting

Wednesday 27/11/2013

All members present

1. School Issue: Ideas to make school more environmentally friendly:

* Different coloured Bins
* Solar panels
* Paper recycling
* Compost heap
* Lights in classroom automatic
* Greenhouse with animals

2. Form Issue: Junior our sponsored child

What we have done so far:

* Raised money/ fundraising
* Written a letter

Other ways in which we could help him:

* Shoebox Christmas- toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, sanitary stuff, stationary
* School books
* Send him a DVD of what school is like here

1. AOB:
   1. Football team – Need to investigate thoroughly
   2. Cardigans for the girls
   3. Exams before Christmas
   4. Rugby in games for girls
   5. Older people Queue jumping in the canteen

Yr11

iPads good or bad -form discussion

Af-good for mbc cause it's used a lot for maths, could be used better to have textbook on the iPad, good for research and gcse items

Ad-gcse pod easier accessible

Cb-never used

Rw-depends on subjects

Hw-distracting during revision

Cr-prefer to write it and not type

Af-teachers don't know how to use them to full potential

Cb-not use enough for price

Overall opinion-more of a distraction

Year discussion

Rw-classes have different notes

Mainline sciences

Af-panic over lack of notes

Hw-teachers have different teaching ways

Cm-don't allow for different ways of learning

School discussion

Ad-no recycling bins

Hw-put more bins

Ad-place bins

Af-have to print notes so more paper

Ad-Eco day

Hw-pick up rubbish

Ad-make posters

Af-encourage going outside durning break and lunch

Ad-11v wants a football team

Hw-11z want a volleyball team

Af-more drama etc topics

Year group: 12. Venue: room 102

Present: • Andrew Drylie • Kerry Branagh • Clarisse Devlin • Zach Scott • Kerrie Patterson • Ross Waite • Lauren Warren • David Arneill • Callum Wardil • Jamie Lutton • Rachel Magee

1. Schoolissue:

**Eco-friendly:**

Time and date of meeting: 22 November 2013 at 09:20

Absent: - Rachel K Hanna

• Insulation in the walls • Compost heap to recycle organic waste on the cricket pitches • Blinds or curtains for top floor classrooms • Regulate heat in classrooms • Less paper handouts especially in languages

2. Form issues: • Not enough healthy alternatives in the canteen as well as the chips • Lower the price of fruit salads • Prices in the vending machines are too expensive • Girls lockers bathrooms need hand dryers replaced • Taps in the girls library bathrooms are too hot • Hand dryers don't work very well in boys bathrooms • Mirrors in the girls changing rooms • Mirrors in boys bathrooms

3. Pupil issues: • Cardigans for girls • Boys would like school hoody's

Chair person: Andrew Drylie Secretary: Kerry Branagh

**Year 14 Council Meeting – Tuesday 26/11/2013 – 12:25-13:00**

**Venue – A70**

**Present  
Miss Ferguson**

**Chris Crawford  
Alison Dark  
Aaron Dumican  
Hannah Jess  
Natasha Michaelides  
Jessica Purdy  
Fraser Rodgers - Chairperson  
Brian Weir**

**Apologies**

**Lydia Kerr**

**Maddie McRoberts**

**Introduction**

**Maddie McRoberts and Lydia Kerr were not in attendance. Hannah took minutes in place of Lydia who is secretary.**

**Miss Ferguson briefly went over issues brought forward at previous meeting - nothing has come of any of these.**

**1. School Issues – Eco Issues**

**Heating is on at wrong times i.e. can be very cold in school during winter. Inform maintenance men?**

**Switches in classrooms aren’t always switched off after use – this should be encouraged.**

**Computers are left on for too long after school – would be good if shut down at end of school. Teachers in ICT classes should encourage this.**

**2. Form Issues – Formal/Pie/Prefect duties**

**Formal date has been agreed for 26th March 2014.**

**Pupils would like more transparency within committee, suggested that there could be weekly updates on the formal and Pie in extended form assembly?**

**Prefect duties:**

* + **All boards need to be changed on weekly basis – some haven’t been updated. Speak to Mr Yamin-Ali if this is the case with your board.**
  + **Prefects need to take duties more seriously; some people have not been at gates at lunch.**
  + **Senior prefects need to ask more prefects about doing after school duties – same people keep doing them all. Other people haven’t done any after school duties as they are unavailable on Saturday mornings. This could lead to prefects not caring about duties as much.**

**Pie: videos need to be started. Cast needs sorted. Dr Halferty is checking script.**

**3. Pupil Issues**

**Print credits very expensive - £3 for 100 is too much**

**Again, Year 14 would like car parking facilities on site. They would be happy to pay money every term to park their car. It would reduce residential complaints. A new prefect duty could be introduced to ensure parking is done correctly.**

**Year 14 would like police cones outside school to be removed.**

**Canteen/Servery – there isn’t a lot of variety in servery, food is repetitive. Canteen is better value and there is often a better selection.**

**Chocolate and crisps were well welcomed when sold at lunch time over the past couple of weeks. This could become something that happens every Friday. Junior pupils may be discouraged from selling sweets to each other.**

**Meeting ended at 13:05**

December ‘13

**School Council Executive Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 11 December 2013

Principal’s office

9:10 – 10:25

**Action points**

1. LT discussed the issues raised through the Executive Committee and the following was agreed:

Requests for additional water fountains and a sandwich bar will be given some more consideration.

Mirrors should be available for the Girls’ Changing rooms soon.

Miss Gracey will investigate the possibility and demand for a school cardigan.

Mr Cleland and Dr McMath will speak to Year 11 about the use of iPads to full potential.

The school no longer has a school hoody, however this will be explored further.

There should be plenty of warm water for those needing showers in morning and this will be investigated further.

The school doesn’t have space to provide student parking as the tennis courts are used for recreation at break / lunch and this area is also the Fire Assembly point and needs to be accessible in case of emergency.

February ‘14

Year 10 Council Meeting 13th February

1. Executive members reported back to council on findings/discussions of executive meeting. PASS survey also mentioned.

2. Form issue of how to encourage our year group to treat each other more kindly.

Stricter punishments

Some sort of enhanced merit card system

Posters

Increased assembly

Class set activities

Collegiality cup

3. School issue - Eco system - how to make the school more environmentally friendly

Walk to school week

Compost heap

Encourage shared transport

Printer cartridges recycling

Restrict use paper napkins

Recycle bins

Themed environment week In some classes

Use the week of beyond the classroom

Litter picking as a punishment

Yr11

Discussed executive council meeting feedback

Discussed making a petition to make a football team

Good things to be on the survey:

More extra curricular activities

Hygiene

Study facilities during the exam period

Cheaper food in the Canteen

Homework

Access around the school-sixth form corridor

Locker facilities

Ventilation in girls changing room

Wet rooms in the boys changing room

**Year 14 Council Meeting – Wednesday 05/02/2014 – 9.15-9.50**

**Venue – A70**

**Present  
Miss Ferguson**

**Chris Crawford  
Alison Dark  
Aaron Dumican  
Hannah Jess  
Lydia Kerr – Secretary   
Maddie McRoberts  
Natasha Michaelides  
Jessica Purdy  
Fraser Rodgers - Chairperson  
Brian Weir**

**Introduction**

**Miss Ferguson briefly went over issues brought forward at the previous meeting and discussed issues brought to the Executive Council Meeting in December**

**1. School Issues – Eco Issues**

**Heating is still on at wrong times i.e. can be very cold in school during winter. Inform maintenance men?**

**Switches in classrooms aren’t always switched off after use – this should be encouraged.**

**Computers are left on for too long after school – would be good if shut down at end of school. Teachers in ICT classes should encourage this.**

**Computers in study are also not being turned off and we suggested that someone who is on study Period 10 could be responsible for ensuring that they are switched off completely.**

**2. Form Issues – Formal/Pie/Prefect duties  
  
Prefect Duties:**

* **Upper Sixth are happy that the responsibility for prefect duties has now been handed over to the Lower Sixth**
* **Some members of the council have suggested that there should be a transition period before Lower Sixth begin prefect duties in order to show them how to carry out these duties efficiently**

**Formal**

* **Pupils would like to see more transparency in the Formal Committee and would especially want to know what exactly they are getting for their money**
* **Some members suggested that the formal committee in future years should be elected before September of Upper Sixth in order to start organising the formal earlier. Furthermore we would like to see a system in place to recall members of the committee who are not putting enough work into the formal or those who are unwilling to take ideas from outside the formal committee**
* **Another suggestion was to allow more input of ideas for formal from outside the formal committee and pupils have raised concerns over fundraising which many have said has been disorganised. A member of the council suggested that events and venues for fundraisers should be booked well in advance**

**Study**

* **Some pupils have raised concerns that they have to move over to the Lower Sixth side of study during periods 6 and 7 this presents an inconvenience to those that are in study for both of these periods.**

**3. Pupil Issues**

**Print credits very expensive - £3 for 100 is too much**

**Police Cones have been removed since the last meeting**

**Canteen/Servery – there isn’t a lot of variety in servery, food is repetitive. Canteen is better value and there is often a better selection**

**Members of the council have suggested that mock exams for Sixth Form should move back to December. We feel that having experienced both exam times that December is preferable because it allows more time in January to get on with completing the course.**

**Report on Executive Committee**

* **The council was told of some suggestions made during the executive Council meeting**
* **Members of council were told that the suggestion to have a car park in the Tennis Courts wasn’t viable as it is used as a recreational area at break and lunch.**
* **We were also told that maintenance were looking into the possibility of getting a water fountain in the Sixth Form Centre and into providing hot showers for those who do sports in the morning.**

May ‘14

**Yr11 May minutes**

**Recent Survey**

Pointless

No gain

Wasn't anonymous

Couldn't be honest

Didn't know the purpose

**Exams**

Timetables are out too late

Teachers need to be understanding

Too much homework around exams

Control assessments at the same time as exams

**AOB**

Cardigans for girls

Mirrors in boys changing rooms

Year 9 May Council Meeting – feedback

Yr10 Minutes – May ‘14

The Year 9 brought a few requests to the council meeting today and I promised to pass them on.

They complained about the portion sizes and prices in the canteen and suggested that smaller pupils, boys in particular are actually given smaller portions.

The pupils requested the introduction of round tables in the canteen.

The pupils also requested that lost property is opened to pupils on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays.

**School Council Executive Committee Meeting**

Monday 12 May 2014

Library

11:15 – 12:25

**Action points**

1. PASS survey – following discussions about the survey and concerns raised by the committee that students felt unsure of the purpose of the survey DA will email information to pupils as well as parents in advance of the next run through.
2. HG informed students that following consultation with pupils a school cardigan has been agreed and will be available for the start of the next academic year. HG also brought proposals for the reintroduction of a school hoody that can be worn under the blazer to and from school and to school sports events.
3. HG informed the committee of the opportunity to get your initials embroidered on school tracksuits for a small additional cost.
4. Students as Leaders programme was outlined and well received by member so of the committee.
5. Concerns raised by committee re. mirrors in the Boys’ Changing rooms and temperature of hot water have been passed to relevant parties and will be investigated.
6. A football tournament has been arranged as part of the BTC activities.