

# ***ARMADALE ACADEMY***

**SCHOOL PARENTS COUNCIL TUESDAY 29 January 2008**

**19.00 TO 21.00**

**CONFERENCE ROOM**

## **Agenda**

- |                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Welcome and Apologies             | Chairperson  |
| 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting       | Chairperson  |
| 3. Matters Arising                   | Chairperson  |
| 4. Staffing and Accommodation Update | G Johnstone  |
| 5. HMie Report                       | G Johnstone  |
| 6. HMie Action Plan                  | G Johnstone  |
| 7. Parent Trust Fund                 | E Birrell    |
| 8. Charter Mark                      | L McPhillips |
| 9. A O C B                           | Chairperson  |

## West Lothian Council Education Services

*Minutes of meeting of **ARMADALE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 29 January 2008 at 7 p.m. in the conference room.*

### 1 PRESENT

|                              |                                       |                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs K Smart                  | Mrs M Cochrane                        |                  |
| Mrs L Thomson                | Mrs E Ledgerwood                      |                  |
| Mr G Johnstone               | Mrs E Birrell,                        |                  |
| Mr R Orr                     | Miss L McPhillips ( Acting DHT) guest |                  |
| Cllr J McGinty               | Cllr J Dixon                          | Cllr S Borrowman |
| Mrs L McInulty (Chairperson) | Mrs J McKay (Secretary/Treasurer)     |                  |

**APOLOGIES** : None

### 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Mrs K Smart and seconded by Mrs L McInulty

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

- a. Copies of Parent Council Constitution will be distributed to S3 and S4 parents on Parents' Evenings.
- b. The temporary hut, to relieve the lack of accommodation in the PE Department, will hopefully be in place in 3-5 weeks. The hut will house the fitness equipment, which is temporarily in the main hall. When the equipment is in place the PE Department will have full use of the main hall for other sports training, i.e. Badminton and Table Tennis.

Mrs McInulty raised concerns about the supervision of pupils in the huts and the security of the huts out of school hours.

Mr Johnstone assured the Council that as always, pupils will be supervised in the huts and instructed in the use of the fitness equipment. As to the security, the huts will be positioned within the perimeter fence, and should be secure.

- c. Mrs Smart gave a brief update on Parent Council Forum which she recently attended. Main points discussed were :

**Groupcall** - The implementation of Groupcall to all West Lothian Schools has now been completed. This system is operated daily to alert parents when their child has failed to attend school or if they are late without reasonable explanation.

**Primary Playground Supervision**

All primaries have been allocated an extra twenty minutes per day playground supervision before the start of the school day.

**Charter Mark** discussed. Support contact for Charter Mark is Andrew Sneddon.

#### 4 STAFFING & ACCOMMODATION

##### New Appointments:

Joanne Morton - English Full time teaching post replaced probationer Katherine Deacons

Jason McCord - Maths Full time teaching post replaced Laura Gwynne

Scott Hampton - has been appointed as Network Manager.

##### Acting Posts

Isabel Orr - who was Acting PTC Social Subjects has now been appointed as PTC Social Subjects.

Carol McDonald - who was Acting PTC Citizenship has now been appointed as PTC Citizenship.

The vacancy for Depute Headteacher will be advertised before the end of session. In the meantime Mr Glencorse and Miss McPhillips will continue as Acting Depute Headteachers.

##### Accommodation Update

Mrs McInulty relayed some details of PPP meeting. The Armadale Academy's new building is on track, but there has been some delays at Deans High School, but still progressing well.

Dawn Construction invited Mr Johnstone and some pupils to visit the site, complete with hard hats and "Wellies". They were given the opportunity to walk up to the second floor of the construction, under supervision.

There was also a photographic record of the event.

The school have worked closely with the construction site, on safety and Dawn Construction gave talks to pupils at school assemblies.

Dawn Construction also donated the cost of the Christmas Tree which adorned the front hall in December.

#### 5 HMIe REPORT

Mr Johnstone conveyed to the parent council that he was pleased with the overall report. One of the main points he noted was the use by the Inspectorate of very positive language in, and presentation of, the report. This was not the case in all HMIe reports.

The outcome of the inspection was that, for the 17 areas evaluated, the school received 1 excellent; 10 very good; 4 good; 2 adequate (these being S5 and S6 attainment and Accommodation). The excellent was awarded for the school's partnership with parents, the Parent Council and the community.

After studying the report Mr Johnstone searched the HMIe website for other schools' indicators and his findings were that there has been 99 inspections of schools using the same model. On the basis of the above evaluations Armadale Academy was tenth equal in the HMIe league table. Two other WL schools featured in the list with Linlithgow Academy level with us on 10<sup>th</sup> equal and West Calder at 29<sup>th</sup> equal.

The parent surveys, returned to the Inspectorate, also highlighted that parents had concerns only about the accommodation of the school. This is being addressed with the construction of the new school to open in August 2009. Apart from accommodation parents were very positive about almost all aspects of the work of the school including communication with parents, care and welfare of pupils and leadership.

HMIe were also impressed with the schools curriculum on Citizenship, both local, national and global.

The report is available for viewing on the HMIe website which can be accessed at [www.HMIe.gov.uk](http://www.HMIe.gov.uk) Once on the site click on advanced search and type in Armadale Academy in the appropriate box. The link should then be available.

Mr Johnstone said he will arrange for the report to be updated on the School website as soon as possible.

Mrs Birrell noted that one of the most positive statements from HMIe was that they would not need to make a return visit! That sentence reads "As a result of the high performance, the strong record of improvement and the very effective leadership of this school, HM Inspectors will make no further reports in connection with this inspection".

## **6 HMIe ACTION PLAN**

Although this is still in the draft stages, Mr Johnstone spoke about some of the main points to be addressed by the Action Plan.

- ◆ S5 attainment at Higher
- ◆ Provision of courses covering the wider range of ability now found in S5 / 6
- ◆ Early presentation of S3 pupils in English, Maths and French to enable more pupils to attain 2 year Higher in S5 stage.
- ◆ Aspects of Teaching and Learning will also be addressed

The Action Plan will be presented to the authority for scrutiny and agreement.

## **7 PARENT TRUST FUND**

Mrs Birrell informed the Parent Council that Mrs McInulty had spoken with pupils on what they would like to spend the donations from their parents i.e. what could be purchased to improve the facilities already available. High on the list was a new TV /DVD for Social Area and Dining Room. Therefore £750 has been allocated to part pay for installation of new TVs with Freeview and outside aerial. Other purchases from money raised will include:

- ◆ additional school ties to replace those pupils who lose them.
- ◆ Extra PE kit for those pupils who do not bring them on PE day. These will be returned and laundered before being used again.

## 8 CHARTER MARK

Miss McPhillips (Acting DHT) distributed a pack explaining the principles of Charter Mark and explained this to the Parent Council. West Lothian Council have created a Charter Mark policy stating that all schools must obtain Charter Mark status by 2010. The initial cost for obtaining Charter Mark is £800 thereafter members of the Parent Council would undertake the Charter Mark ensure that standards are being maintained.

Some of the areas the school will address are as follows:

- ◆ The school website will be updated and parents can now communicate with the school via email. Most communication with parents will now be placed on the school website.
- ◆ It was suggested that a screen could be placed in the front hall to further enhance communication procedures. The screen could display the activities which will take place each day.

The evidence for Charter Mark will be collated in the next few months.

It is hoped that the school will achieve Charter Mark status by end of this session.

## 9 A O C B

Councillor Dixon enquired about the After School Activities the school had in place, in view of the facilities which will be available in the new school. He also wondered about who would be responsible for the letting of school facilities to community groups.

Mr Johnstone replied that at present the school operates a Study Support and Homework club with additional sporting activities. Also that the school has a lunchtime activity clubs, which include basketball, chess, table tennis and dance. Letting will be the responsibility of our PPP partner.

Mrs McInulty asked councillors about the limited or lack of Policing at Armadale Police station. Councillor Borrowman said the Police Station was manned by an Inspector and Admin person. Community Police would also be available.

### **DATE OF NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday 15 April at 7 pm in Conference Room

Councillor Dixon offered his apologies as he will be unable to attend on that date.