

## TEESDALE SCHOOL P.T.A. MINUTES – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The meeting opened at 6.30pm.

**Present:** Mick Brennan, Alison Mounter, Paul Harrison, John Southeran, Wayne Harrison, Chris Smith, Jill Collins, Vas Patel, Suzanne Williams, Godfrey Williams, Janice Moore, Mike Bettison, Helen Holguin, Clive Parsons, Sharon Munn, Lynn Metcalfe, Lynn Todhunter, Clare Carr, Caroline English

**Apologies:** Sue Francis, Tracy Tuck, Nicole Read

### Welcome from Chairman

Mick Brennan welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves. He then explained the function of the P.T.A. as a fundraising body with targeted objectives and a forum for dialogue.

Wayne Harrison, acting head of science, demonstrated the new V.L.C. to the members and explained how it would be used both for Teesdale pupils and the feeder primary schools.

### Chairman's Report

Mick fed-back to the meeting on developments regarding engaging Y5 children and their parents/carers. There will be an event for Y5 children and their families held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, a leaflet has been sent out to feeder schools highlighting the achievements of Teesdale School in the last year, which Mick reported had been well received in Cotherstone. Paul Harrison reported that the school also had local authority funding to provide transition work relating to M.F.L. and that Science teachers also visit local primaries. There is currently no surplus Maths staffing, but there are hopes that this may be an area which will be developed in the future.

In response to concerns about the lack of current information on the website, Paul reported that 6<sup>th</sup> Form enhancement time would be used to work on press releases and to update the school site. He also referred to the new network manager who has had previous experience in schools and is expected to improve the website.

Concern was expressed at the lack of positive coverage of Teesdale School's achievements in the local press. It is hoped that the editor of the local paper will be invited in to work with 6<sup>th</sup> Form students in a series of workshops. Sharon Munn suggested that the P.T.A. could fund a regular advertisement of the school's achievements in the local paper, which would give the school control of the content and presentation.

John Southeran referred to the teaching awards which will be referred to in assembly this week. The School Council has decided on the categories for which teachers can be nominated and will also be handling the nominations. The overall winners will be presented with their awards at events later in the term, including the Y5 Parents' Evening and the Awards Night. It was suggested that the categories would evolve over time to include, for example, 'most innovative teacher' or 'most inspiring teacher'.

Mick suggested that it would be good for the P.T.A. to have a capital project as a focus for a concerted fund-raising effort as this tends to engender more support.

Following concerns about the quality and timing of marking of homework in particular, Paul Harrison explained the new monitoring system which has been introduced. There is a new planning template which includes homework and must be submitted. Non-contact time will be provided each week to allow for monitoring of planning, teaching and marking.

Mick read a thank you card from Rachel Hunter who had used her 'text points' to pay for a limo ride to the prom with five of her friends. Another top prize had been a free prom. photograph.

### Treasurer's Report

There has been no financial activity since the meeting in June. The current balance in the bank is £2528.35, which will be carried forward to the next financial year.

The end of year submission has been made to the Charities Commission for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

The new trustees for the P.T.A. will be Jill Collins and Clive Parsons.

### **AGM**

The A.G.M. will be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. Paul Harrison will arrange a talk of about 20 mins. based on curriculum matters. Parents/carers of current Y6 pupils will be invited along.

### **Matters Arising**

100's Club – Jill has taken over the running of this.

Jill Adams – The Extended Schools Co-ordinator will be invited to attend a future meeting.

Events Licence – There would be no saving based on the number of events currently held at the school.

Sponsored Spell – The words and sponsorship forms will be sent in to the office.

Mufti Day – The P.T.A. will receive the proceeds from a mufti day to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **AOB**

Governor Vacancies - There are three parent-governor vacancies and forms are available from the school office.

Governors – It was pointed out that there is currently no straightforward way of finding out who the governors are if one has a concern to bring to their attention. Would it therefore be possible to have a list of governors and possibly a governor newsletter to keep parents/carers informed.

Autumn Production – 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December. Volunteers will be needed to serve drinks and sell raffle tickets.

Friends of Teesdale School Soul Band – This group is made up of students, helpers and staff. Godfrey is their chairperson and they will be holding their A.G.M. in October if anyone is interested in offering their support.

At the close of the meeting concerns were expressed regarding the employment of a teacher before the summer break who is an active member of the B.N.P.. Paul Harrison set out the circumstances in which the teacher had been employed on a daily supply basis. He also advised that the matter would be discussed at a governor's meeting scheduled for the following Monday.

The Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – A.G.M. 6.30 P.M. MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**