

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parents' Consultative Group (PCG)**

**held at Scalby School**

**on Monday 7 September 2009**

**Present**

Graeme Casper (Chairperson)  
Judith Vine (Minutes)  
Paul Tarn (Principal)  
B Evans (Assistant Principal)  
John Scoble – (Chairman of the IEB )  
Sherri Williamson (Member of IEB)  
Stephanie Hartley (Member of IEB)  
Jean Croft  
Michele Ansell  
Helen Marsden  
David Penny  
Jane Price  
Sylvia Gaines  
Gordon Hayes  
Jim Green  
Jon Liverey  
Diane Whilde  
Sarah Halliday  
Julia Parke  
Kate Hayes  
Donna Gibson  
Judith Stockdale  
Nigel Scott  
Sue Pacey  
K Woodward-Hay  
Cindy Brooke  
Karen Lumsden  
Sue Marton  
Sarah Howarth  
Deborah Collins  
Sylvia Waitling  
Lorricia Mitler  
S Hird  
Susan Howson  
P Vasey  
K Loy  
J Deaves  
Steve Halliday  
Angela Newens  
Helen Kirk  
Debra Layton  
Paula Penny  
Richard Vinson  
Stephen Newlyn  
Jan Corrie  
Pamela Hume  
Jason Haddington  
Chris Taylor  
Julie Castleton  
Lynda Rowley  
Andy Robson  
Lesley Hodgson  
Chris Rhodes  
Paul Higgins  
Andy Newton  
B Marshall  
Sharon Cordin  
Kath Saffman  
Debbie Edwards  
Joanne Rowe  
Christine Ward  
Tracey Holden  
Keith Waitling  
G Hobden  
Allen Howson  
E Corcoran  
T Cross  
T Ferrie  
E Messenger  
Jane Cooper  
Rachel Darthall-Smith

## 1. Welcome

Graham Casper introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he had been elected Chairperson of the PCG at a previous meeting. John Scoble introduced himself and gave a brief description of the role of the Interim Executive Board.

## 2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

## 3. Presentation of 2009 results

Mr Tarn gave a presentation depicting the 2009 GCSE examination results which were the best the school had ever achieved. He hoped that the results for next year would be even better – the targets for next year were 100% A\*-C grades overall and 65% A\*- C grades including English and Maths. He said that Scalby School was now performing in the top 25% of “like”schools in the country (ie schools of a similar size with a similar intake of children). A short film celebrating the achievements of the Year 11s involved was shown.

Mr Tarn said that as a general drive to improve standards, uniform would be targeted as an area for improvement this term. Pupils would be required to ensure that they had their planners with them at all times and would be asked to show them at the gate. Chewing gum had been completely banned and anyone found with it would be subject to a 1 hour detention. At lunchtimes pupils must remain in their designated areas.

Pupils were being encouraged to “make every lesson count” and to make a pledge – “don’t waste your time”.

## 4. Explanation of Praising Stars

Mr Evans explained “Praising Stars” which identifies the level at which a pupil is performing and predicts the level it is felt that the student has the ability to achieve. Using an anonymous spreadsheet he demonstrated how the relevant data was collated. **Praising Stars allows the school to track pupil progress and to highlight the areas where the student is working at a lower level than expected, thus allowing for specific intervention.** For example, classroom teachers and Learning Managers (all Learning Managers are heads of one year group) would investigate coursework and attendance information etc for those pupils giving cause for concern to try to identify the problem. Mr Evans said that the information gathered was updated and examined every six weeks. On-going evaluation was a high priority of the system.

Effort grades were different from achievement grades. Effort grades range from E1 which shows 100% effort to E4 which requires some investigation by the school into possible causes.

Mr Evans told the meeting that there were 3 types of intervention;

- **In the classroom**

This would be undertaken by collaboration between the teacher and the Learning Manager for that year group.

- **Booster sessions**

These would be used to support literacy and numeracy in particular. The school was in the process of introducing dedicated Literacy and Numeracy Teaching Assistants.

- **Impact Centres**

These would provide personalised support for under-achievers under the supervision of the Learning Managers.

Mr Evans stressed that last year's examination results showed that Praising Stars was not just about the collection of information – they proved that the information obtained was being used to good effect. It also allowed the school to monitor pupils with Special Educational Needs etc as it allowed particular groups to be highlighted.

The collection of data also allowed teaching to be monitored and showed the percentage of time a class had not had their regular teacher. This would highlight whether or not low performance was linked to temporary teaching.

Mr Tarn said that he was aware that temporary teaching had been a problem in the past but that steps were being taken to remedy this. Teachers were now allocated 2 hours per week for professional development where they would be covering such topics as new techniques for motivating pupils, lesson outcomes and learning structures. There was also a 2 hour professional development session before every Praising Stars session.

## **5. Proposed after-school activities for the new school year**

Mr Evans said that the list of after-school activities was not finalised yet but it would be available for the next meeting and the Chairperson agreed that this item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The list will be made available to parents before this date.

### **Action: Graeme Casper**

The library was already open for a homework club between 2.30 and 3.30pm every day as were IT facilities.

Sports clubs would also definitely run.

Mr Tarn explained that all of these after-school activities were voluntary and therefore no registers would be taken.

## **6. The process for Headteacher recruitment**

John Scoble described to the meeting the role of the Interim Executive Board. Three important aspects of its role were

- To secure **sustainable** improvement
- To oversee the establishment of a new Governing Body
- To oversee the recruitment and appointment of a new Headteacher

One meeting had already taken place to discuss the appointment of the new Headteacher and another meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9 September to discuss items such as the advertisement for the post, the salary to be offered etc. It had already been agreed that the selection panel would consist of John Scoble, Stephanie Hartley, Roger Cannon and Sherri Williamson. Outwood Grange would be heavily involved and all candidates would be visited and observed in their own schools. The Local Authority would also be involved. More specific information would be available after the meeting on 9 September and Ms Williamson said that she would report back to the Parents' Forum at the next meeting. Mr Casper agreed to put this item on the agenda.

**Action: Mrs Williamson/Mr Casper**

## **7. How parents can help**

Due to lack of time it was agreed to move this item was to the next meeting.

**Action: Mr Casper**

## **8. Any other business**

Some parents were concerned that there was to be no presentation evening for last year's Year 11 pupils, particularly given their examination success. Mr Tarn said that a leavers' assembly had been held, all staff had attended the Year 11 prom and together with the film that had been shown at the beginning of the meeting he felt that the success of Year 11 had been fully celebrated. In his experience once pupils had left school many did not wish to return for subsequent presentation evenings. Also he felt that it was now time to focus upon the coming year and present pupils, especially since staff are already being asked to commit themselves to much unpaid time to ensure the running of the proposed after-school activities.

Parents acknowledged that they were aware of the contribution that staff were making and were grateful, but some still felt that last year's Year 11s had been let down.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parents' Forum would be held on Monday 28 September 2009 at 7.00pm.