

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

held at Scalby School

on Monday 28 September 2009

Present

Graeme Casper (Chairperson)	D Wilde
Judith Vine (Minutes)	S Cathenall
Paul Tarn (Headteacher)	A Tadman
B Evans (Assistant Headteacher)	G Hobden
John Scoble – (Chairman of the IEB)	C Schneider
Sherri Williamson (Member of IEB)	S Schofield
J Haddington	D Johnson
Karen Lumsden	T Cross
Donna Gibson	S Halliday
Jim Green	S J Halliday
Dave Mitchell	B Marshall
Debbie Mitchell	J Martin
Lesley Hodgson	R Dixon
Anne Hodgson	K Hutchinson
Mandi Richardson	M Squires
Julie Hird	K Minghella
Sara Boden	J Taylor
Karen Robinson	E Corcoran
Paula Perry	Bakera Begum
David Perry	T Ferrie
Jane Cooper	Karen Loy
Ian Cooper	G Britton
Julie Davies	Mark Marsden
Keith Marshall	Ralph Morley
Richard Cinson	Margaret Clark
Helen Kirk	Caroline Scholes
Jacqeline Scott	Alan Shepherd
R Porton	Bill Freeman
K Goodison	Debra Allan
E Scarborough	Sue Pacey
A Robson	Jayne Scales
Heather Portland	Debra Layton
Gordon Hayes	John Layton
Kaye Hayes	Jane Price
Christine Ward	Tracey Hutchinson
Andrew Mason	Stephen Newlyn
K H Wastling	C Broadbent
K J Wastling	
S Stephenson	
P Stephenson	
J Cartwright	

1. Welcome

Graham Casper introduced himself to the meeting and explained that he had been elected Chairperson of the PCG at a previous meeting. He asked parents to email him if they had any suggestions for future items for the agenda. He reminded the meeting that the PCG was a vehicle for consultation and collaboration with the school, not a forum for airing individual grievances – there is already a procedure in place for this.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from;

Mrs Stephanie Hartley (Member of IEB)

Mrs Janet Corrie

3. The New School Curriculum

Mr Wappat (Vice Principal) gave a presentation on the new school curriculum.

He explained that the old curriculum was a 3 year Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and a 2 year Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). In the new curriculum there is now a 2 year KS3 and a 3 year KS4. Option choices are now made during Years 8, 9 and 10. These consist of 2 option blocks of 5 hours each, delivered over 2 days. This is a considerably better use of time and allows pupils to immerse themselves in fewer subjects at a time. It would also make the inclusion of trips/activities relating to the option much easier to arrange. Importantly it would mean that there were no timetable clashes between core subjects such as Science, Maths and English and option choices, particularly for students on courses such as Young Apprenticeship.

Option courses would be delivered over 1 year, not 2 as previously scheduled, which would mean that pupils had greater choice, they would not be “locked in” for 2 years to a choice which they perhaps regretted and that there would be greater flexibility, since an option which had been full in a previous year could be offered again. Students who were not allocated their first choice option in one year would be given priority in the following year. The new system would also allow students to re-take a particular option choice to improve their grade should they so choose. Teaching options to Years 9 and 10 together would allow more option choices to be planned and would save money. The senior management team had found in the past that teaching mixed age groups presented no problems – on the contrary it tended to motivate the younger pupils. In some areas, such as PE, where physical maturity was an issue, some pupils might be advised to wait a year before embarking on their first option choice.

A parent asked if the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme could perhaps be included in the curriculum as an option choice. Mr Wappat said that this was a possibility – option choices were not only about gaining qualifications, but also Enrichment.

The core curriculum is **15** hours per week modelled as follows during 2009-10;

Year 9

3 x Maths
3 x English
3 x Science
2 x Design & Technology
2 x PE
2 x ICT

Year 10

3 x Maths
3 x English
3 x Science
2 x Design & Technology
2 x PE
1 x ICT
1 x RE

The BTEC National courses in subjects such as Art & Design allow the achievement of a Certificate in one year, with the possibility that students could go on to complete the Diploma in the following year, if they so choose. There would also be the possibility of some pupils taking AS level courses in Year 11 in the future.

Mr Wappat explained assessment methods for the different qualifications.

BTEC Certificate - 100% coursework
OCR Nationals - 100% coursework
GCSEs - Exam and coursework

4. After-School Activities

Mr Tarn handed out leaflets detailing current after-school activities. He acknowledged that at present many of the activities were concerned with catch up, intervention, homework club and use of the library. However activities were constantly being added, such as the Science and Technology club which was at present involved in attempting to build a telescope and it was hoped to add many sports clubs to this list. Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver groups were also being run in the evening. It was also hoped that pledges, enrichment activities and international experience visits would also take place outside of normal school hours.

A parent asked whether it was possible for later transport to be provided for children who stayed behind to take part in after school activities. Mr Tarn said that this was difficult for the school to arrange. The Local Authority at present would not agree to the provision of a late bus, but parents could lobby the LA and the school would support them in this.

5. How parents can help the school

John Scoble said that he would soon be recruiting for a new Governing Body. Mr Tarn stated that parents could become involved with practical projects ie school charity events such as fun runs. He believed that the best thing that parents could do to help their children was to encourage a home environment where learning was valued. Parents could achieve this by taking an active interest in what their children were doing at school and in taking time to read with children and help with homework. They should encourage their children to take advantage of what the school has to offer in the way of intervention, homework clubs etc.

Parents should get involved with the school – if they had a practical skill which they could offer or were willing to volunteer to help with English or Maths they should volunteer and the school would be happy to make use of them.

The message is – “get involved”.

6. Any other business

John Scoble gave an update on the recruitment of a new Head Teacher. He told the meeting that a timescale had been agreed as follows;

18 September 09	Advert placed in Times Educational Supplement
1 October 09	Closing date for applications
5 October 09	A selection panel (which would include representatives from Outwood Grange) would produce a long list of candidates
5 Oct – 21 Oct 09	Visits to assess long-listed candidates in their own school
23 October 09	Short list agreed
2 and 3 November 09	Interviews held (candidates also interviewed by group of pupils from Scalby school)

The successful Head Teacher would be given a contract that would start at the beginning of the summer term 2010 thus allowing a one term handover period from Mr Tarn. During this time the new Head Teacher would be trained by the present Senior Management Team in their methods.

There being no other business the Chairperson thanked parents for their attendance and stated that the date of the next meeting was **Monday 2 November 2009** at **7.00pm**.