

Dollar Academy Parents' Association

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Minutes of The Meeting

Present:

Pamela Corsar (Chair)	Lorna Cameron (Secretary)
Oliver Pearce (Parent Governor)	Robin Pyper (Deputy Rector)
Roddy Urquhart	Clare Johnstone
Nick Schellenberg	Rebecca McFarlane
Marie Munday (Treasurer)	Craig Anderson (Vice Chair)
Sheena Gray (Thrift Shop Convenor)	Gillian Hunt
Shona Waddell	Angela King
Laura Crouch	Stephen Bradshaw

Apologies received from Morven Cadell, Catherine MacDonald

1. Introduction, welcome

The Chair (Pam) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Last meetings minutes accepted with no changes.

Pam thanked Robin on behalf of DAPA for his engagement so far and quick response/collaboration to move items forward.

2. Matters Arising

2.1. DAPA Roles and Responsibilities

Each member was asked to reflect on what they perceive the purpose, structure and role of DAPA should be. Each member to feed-back individually to Pam and Craig about this.

Current Office Bearer role holders to draft an overview of their role and responsibilities and provide to Craig.

2.2. FIDA update

Rebecca met with Marie, Laura and Angela to discuss fundraising. Fundraising has been going well with donations of all sizes. There is still more to be done on a fundraising front. The James Bond musical evening is also planned for the end of this term.

Members are asked to support the James Bond evening and promote through word of mouth and social media.

A summer event is also planned although the nature of this is yet to be determined. There is limitation in the availability of the marquee and alternative arrangements are being considered. Stephen Bradshaw to move forward with this and bring back.

Easter and Autumn events also in the planning phase.



2.3. Lockers

This was an outstanding action from the last meeting. Roddy Urquhart has identified two suppliers with no expenditure from the school, costs being met by parents/guardians. There is no obligation for a free site-survey. Updates to be posted on Whatsapp/Teams

2.4. Swimming

Raised by Sheena. The Academy does allow access to the swimming pool for local schools, community groups and clubs. Prep 1 to Prep 5 have one swimming lesson per week. J1 to F2 swim in blocks. There is teaching as part of the curriculum and in after-school clubs.

Robin agreed we should explore the competitive element for the school and the possibility of a swimming team.

2.5. Buses

3 incidents have been recorded since November on McGill's Buses. The Academy has now asked parents to complete a form to generate a record of pupils using public bus services to get to and from school. The Academy has also been in regular contact with McGill's and other external parties in relation to safety concerns. At the most recent incident the minibus was taken to assist children to return home. There was concern that during this specific incident, the driver had stopped the bus at a potentially dangerous point on the road; the Academy had raised this point with McGill's management. If parents had completed the form at this point, they were contacted to acknowledge that the Academy was aware and communicating with McGill's. There will be training and support offered to senior pupils to promote safety and support more junior pupils for any future problems.

2.6. Lost property

An email from the school office will be sent to highlight the "doors-open" policy at the end of every term. Parents encouraged to ensure all uniform items are appropriately labelled. There will be a rota developed to provide collections from "hot-spots" around the school and if the items are named the parents will be emailed and the item returned. Pupils can also go to the janitor. Any uncollected items will be donated to *PreLoved*.

2.7. Events

The Academy to identify all events requiring representation by DAPA members before the summer. This will include numbers required. Robin to action.

3. Governor's report

The next meeting is scheduled for 27th March. Nothing to add currently.

4. Update from PreLoved

15 open days so far this academic year totalling £12,657 in gross sales.

Funding request approved - £425.87 for a pair of netball stands and 12 balls for the Junior after netball club and the Prep 4 & 5 lunchtime netball club.

Funds in bank £9,100

Netball funding £425.87

Outstanding accounts £500

Set aside for future stock purchase £1,500

Leaves balance of £6,674.13 so comfortably £6,000 available to find bid requests.



5. Dates for next meetings

12th March 2024.

6. AOB

- 6.1. There were some queries raised about class sizes, specifically in the prep school. Robin pointed to research that indicated class size reduction, is an inefficient and costly way of improving outcomes for learners. It was also pointed out that the Academy use staff resources wisely, allowing for break-out lessons and additional support and challenge to be put in place for those who need it.
- 6.2. Preloved: New process to access funding is to be finalised and shared with the teachers/DAPA. This should ensure equity for applications and disbursements.
- 6.3. Actions and minutes to be published on website and up-to-date.
- 6.4. The Academy is continuing to track queueing times for the dining hall and looking to add till data to this.
- 6.5. Plan to be developed to enhance communication and integration of boarding parents.

Meeting concluded at 9pm

Note from Chair:

From time to time, DAPA receive information that may be of a sensitive nature. We would like to assure members and parents that in these circumstances such information will be dealt with in a timely, respectful and where appropriate, confidential nature.

Membership

Claire Silcock (on 2019, off 2023)
Oli Pearce (on 2020, off 2023)
Lorna Cameron (on 2023, off 2026)
Morven Cadell (on 2023, off 2026)
Pamela Corsar (on 2021, off 2024)
Marie Munday (on 2022, off 2025)
Sheena Gray (on 2022, off 2025)
Laura Crouch (on 2022, off 2025)
Craig Anderson (on 2022, off 2025)
Clare Johnstone (on 2023)
Shona Waddell (on 2021, off 2024)
Mark Bancroft (on 2021, off 2024)
Lesley Shepherd (on 2022, off 2025)
Angela King (on 2022, off 2025)
Roddy Urquhart (on 2023, off 2026)
Nick Schellenberg (on 2023, off 2026)
Stephen Bradshaw (on 2023, off 2026)
Gillian Hunt (on 2023, off 2026)
Anja Siegert (on 2023, off 2026)



Internal

