Castlemilk High School Parent Council Emergency Meeting

Monday 16 January 2012

Present: A Anderson, S Anderson, J McCann, R McLuckie, M Arendariak, S Munro, D O’Neill, K Reid, M Gunion

R McLuckie opened the meeting and thanked M Gunion for meeting with the Parent Council to discuss the situation regarding D McMaster. He expressed the Parent Council’s disappointment in not being consulted/informed before the final decision was made.

M Gunion told the meeting that the Directorate had to act quickly. The HT of Drumchapel had stepped down immediately and the Directorate felt they needed to act quickly to support the school.

She said this is a temporary measure, that D McMaster has not been appointed HT of another school. The Directorate felt Drumchapel needed a strong, dynamic HT and D McMaster fitted the bill. She went on to say Maureen McKenna decided D McMaster was to be moved, temporarily, to Drumchapel as CHS is running very smoothly and it was not a risk for her to be moved. M McKenna was happy to move D McMaster to Drumchapel and for D O’Neill to step up as Acting HT.

M Gunion said that due to the timing of the holidays, no one was aware of the situation, Drumchapel staff had to know 1st thing on the Monday morning with CHS Staff finding out at lunchtime. CHS issued a letter to all parents on the Tuesday and the website was updated on the Monday afternoon. M Gunion praised the school and said they could not have informed parents any quicker.

O’Neill is now Acting HT, I Campbell is now filling D O’Neill’s roll as Acting Depute and J Kennedy (from Modern Languages) has stepped up as Acting PT Pastoral Care.

The Parent Council then asked why a Depute from Drumchapel could not have filled the HT post temporarily. M Gunion told them that Drumchapel had received a negative HMIe Report with regard to all SMT members. There was not enough confidence in Deputes for one of them to step into the Acting HT position.

M Gunion was not sure if the HT post at Drumchapel had been created as yet but said it should hopefully be advertised in the next couple of weeks. She explained the expected timescale and gave Easter as a reasonable length of time.

The Parent Council felt that CHS was being punished for having a good management team. M Gunion said this was a very unusual situation but should a similar situation rise in the future CHS’s HT would not be taken. D McMaster is the mentor for the Higher pupils, a replacement is being looked for at the moment.

The Parent Council wanted to highlight to D O’Neill that they do not have an issue with her Acting HT, it is the lack of communication that has caused concern. Parent Council given the responsibility to be part of the interview panel, they felt they should be consulted/informed of any changes.

A Anderson asked who she should write to, she would like to have her concerns noted. M Gunion said she could write to either Maureen McKenna or herself.

R McLuckie thanked M Gunion for her time and asked if she would be available to attend our meeting on the 6 March at 6pm. M Gunion said she would be available and would be able to report on progress.