

Parent Council Meetings of the Meeting held on 25th February 2020.

Apologies: L Lindsay, E Little and Colin Marr

Present: E Montgomery, S Stienlet, E Graham, J Walker, S Greig, R Rodger, K Wright, S Robertson, M Ford, M Byrne, S Semple, D Fergusson, L Harper and M Dorward.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25/02/20 were proposed by MF and seconded by R R.

Minutes of the meeting held on 28/01/20 were unavailable due to clerk absence.

Head Teacher's Update was distributed at the meeting. The following items were highlighted; Senior Phase Pathway Event. MB highlighted the presence of local employers, Colleges, University attended as well as many other organisations to support young people with their individual career pathway.

Action MD to raise at SAC the possibility of a larger event next year with other secondary schools to see if more universities would attend in future.

School Captain's Update: S6 Committee sold 50 tickets to the Burns Supper event for S6. S3 young people attended and served the dinner. It was followed by a Caleigh and dancing! Great fun was had by all! Further information was shared on the Holocaust Memorial Day which was delivered by a group of S4/S5/S6. The lessons and workshops were well received by the S2 year group who all participated and helped to make posters. Elise advised they were really impressed with the S2 pupils behaviour and active participation in the workshops. James provided information on the planned S6 end of year celebrations. He is making arrangements with the PE staff to run the annual trip to Alton Towers in April and after consultation the S6 year group had opted for a farewell Breakfast on Thursday 23rd April 2020. Elise provided an update with regards to Prom arrangements; almost finalised.

Show My Homework: Lorna advised that a group of staff had undertaken the initial training provided remotely by SMH Company. Departments who are going to trial the technology are Maths, Business, Computing and HE Department with the trial running from March through to April And then extending its usage to a whole school approach in preparation for a full launch in August 2020. Pupil Council feedback was there was concern from some learners about increased pester power from parents and this may result in increased pressure for young people. Lorna advised that the trial would take into account all learners, staff and parent feedback as the app was to be used to share learning resources, signpost resources / activities for young people to increase pupil participation in homework / independent learning activities.

Timetabling and Staffing: Lorna advised that the anticipated school roll for the next academic year was lower and at present was estimated to be around 790. This will have a negative impact on staffing with the roll analysis completed we would be declaring a surplus of staffing to 1.8fte. The impact would be all temporary contracts would be completed on 22nd May 2020. This would impact on staffing in English and Maths departments – 0.4fte and 0.2fte. Sarah Gifford SDS (Temporary Careers Officer) has just left Kyle Academy. Sarah has secured a new position out with the Local Authority. Her replacement to be confirmed at this stage.

Communication Matters - School trips: A letter sent out by a school trip organiser contained incorrect information in regards to a formal request for a 10 year passport for a child. Action Ms Byrne to seek clarification from the trip organiser re the request.

Ballot for places: It was acknowledged that in future all letters with regards to potential school trips will contain written information on the Ballot procedures to guard against disappointment and upset young people.

A request was made by parent council members for organised school trips on an annual basis suggestions were as follows: Geography fieldtrip to Loch Ranza in Arran or Loch Ken. Siobhan Semple advised that unfortunately due to low uptake it was not possible to run a residential fieldtrip this year as a trip had been provisionally planned but postponed. Ms Byrne discussed the regular school trips such as Lake Garda, London Trip for Seniors, Art Trips to Italy and Spain.

Ms Byrne reminded all parents that Douglas Hutchinson welcomes parent campaigns to the Scottish Government that unfortunately CfE is not inclusive for everyone nor is it about SQA examinations. A general discussion took place in regards to young people and the school curriculum.

AOCB

Coronavirus: Parent Council member asked if preparations were underway in school. Lorna advised that there was a full supply of soap, hand towels, hand sanitisers, antibacterial spray and cloths available. The Janitors have also been spraying the corridors with disinfectant every evening to reduce the germs in the school for the past two weeks.

Potholes in the school Car Park are a Health and Safety Hazard, several parents raised concern at the general state of the car park. Ms Byrne advised that Road Safety Alliance had been informed and were waiting for a dry weekend to commence the repairs. The repairs had been scheduled for February holiday week however were postponed due to the inclement weather.

Ms Byrne flagged the profile of the '**Cyber Security Week on Twitter.**' Praise from parents re: fraudulent activity on line information. The accuracy and relevance of the information provided to the public was shared in a very professional manner and pupils were thanked for their ability and creativity to share their knowledge with the wider community. Action: Suggested the Cyber Centurions link with Business Gateway / Sheltered Housing scheme for funding / protecting vulnerable people in our society MB to discuss with Mr Currie.