

St Joseph's Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 27th April 2020

Attendance

Parents	
Jim Campbell (Chair)	
Lesley Cuthbertson	Apology
Julie Batchelor	
Anne Queen	
Mairi Gribben	Apology
Pamela Chigbo	
Jackie Livingstone	
Paul McLaughlin	
Douglas Thomson	
Fiona Rosa	Apology
Martin Hopkins	Apology
Frances McCann	Apology
Deborah Boyd	
Gavin Duffy	
Catriona McCrindle	
Staff	
Joseph Kane (HT)	
Councillors	
Maureen McKay	Apology

Parent Council Business

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Jim Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining via Zoom.

Jim led the opening prayer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes passed as accurate.

Actions from previous meeting

All actions Complete

Head Teacher Report (Appendix 1)

See attached Appendix for full details. The HT report was issued in advance to allow members to review and raise questions during the Zoom call.

Some of the highlights are as follows;

Mr Kane emphasised that although education is important the Health & Wellbeing of the children and staff must take priority.

Discussion around the S4-6 exams which were missed as a result of COVID-19 and the imposed lockdown by the UK Government. There is a process detailed within the HT report which the teachers are following. The proposed estimates of the teachers is not the final grading for the reasons detailed within the report.

There will be an appeal's process this year. Details of which can be found on the SQA website.

There are twice as many grading bands this year, which was touched on by Mr Kane.

Question was raised on how robust the statistical modelling is. Mr Kane cannot answer on behalf of the SQA.

Estimated grades will not be shared with the pupils. Previous estimate grades were based purely on prelim results, where now they are based on class assessments and course work.

Question – Will the exam results for 2020 be based solely on the prelim results?

Response – No. They will form part of the assessment.

There was an anticipation that the S4 & S5 performance would have been good.

Discussion around timetable – see report.

Discussion around P7-S1 transition – see report.

Discussion around S6 leavers – see report. There is a plan to mark their time at St Joseph's as and when the COVID-19 situation permits.

Mr Kane made the group aware of the IT issues being experienced by the staff.

- No school staff (incl. admin/clerical) have access to the school or school system other than the SMT
- Mr Kane can access SEEMIS
- 3 staff members are dealing with all school reporting/ management of school
- Can't access Parent/ Carers email list
- All communications through Mr Kane only.

Jim Campbell suggested the use of SMS to point parent/ cares in the direction of the school app for information.

Pastoral care – heaviest workload during this COVID-19 period. Number of young people rely heavily on the school community and support services.

Mr Kane will submit new timetable to pupil's week commencing 18th May. This may slip into week commencing 25th May.

25 young people notified today that their options couldn't be accommodated. Further discussions will take place with these young people and their parents/ carers.

Planners issued to all young people to aid home schooling – see report.

S1 reports won't be issued. The school will however prioritise notification of any learning concerns of the S1 pupils with Parents/ carers as necessary.

Variety of work being issued so that is not so reliant on the use of a laptop/ pc. With pupils and parents/ carers working from home, access to laptops/ pc's is at a premium.

STAFF

4 new staff members joined the school recently – see report for details.

Staffing return submitted to EAC. Confirmation of request should be received mid-May.

PPE – a communication will be issued on the requirements and issuing of PPE as and when the school returns.

Treasurer's Report

No change since last meeting.

Correspondence

No correspondence received.

AOCB

Next meeting on 8th June

Closing Prayer

JC led the closing prayer.

Dates for meetings throughout session 2020/21 will be issued in due course