

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 AT 8pm IN EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** James Meneely, Valerie Chisholm, Nick Bothwell, Gordon Wallace, Katy Berry, Shabnam Ijaz, Wendy Durie, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Natalie McMillan, Moira Forbes, Karen McGrady-Parker, Vicky Grant, Nilam Ijaz, Adele Thomson, Arezu Bari

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Stuart Maxwell (Head Teacher), Shona McWilliam (Clerk) & Gillian Boyle (Depute)

**APOLOGIES:** Rob Catterson & Uzma Khan

**1. INTRODUCTION**

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (13<sup>th</sup> November 2019)**

Minutes approved and seconded. They will be entered onto the school's website

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) Local Development Plan – Parents set up a sub committee, (James, Shabnam, Valerie, Moira, Nilam & Natalie) and attended a meeting in the school on 26<sup>th</sup> November just before the closing date of 13<sup>th</sup> December.
- b) Recruitment & Selection Training on 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Nilam & Shabnam attended.
- c) Equalities Forum 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Natalie attended. Michael Wield of Stonewall gave a presentation on supporting LGBT young people in education.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Another Recruitment & Selection session is available on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at Barrhead High School, commencing at 6.30pm. Shona will email out details and if you wish to attend please let her know.
- b) Connect correspondence – re invitation to attend a free session at Williamwood High School on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7-9pm on 'Engaging Parents & the School Community'

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Staffing**

Bethany Williams who was Acting Pupil Support Teacher has been successful in gaining a permanent post at Eastwood. Stuart confirmed that this is the time of year that he is required to send in his staffing return to the council. There will be vacancies coming up shortly, 1 – English, 2 – Maths, 2 – Modern Languages & 1 – Modern Studies.

**6. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS**

**a) 1 & 2 Languages Consultation**

The Education department is currently reviewing its implementation of the 1 + 2 Approach to Language learning across the council's schools and centres. As part of the review parents and carers were asked about their children's experiences of foreign language learning at school. A focus group is to meet at Eastwood on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Natalie attended on our behalf.

**b) Scottish Government Parent Involvement Act Consultation**

This is a live consultation and is looking for parental involvement. Consultation closes at the end of April 20. James opened it up to the parent council if they wished to get involved. Wendy mentioned that it was discussed at Crookfur Parent Council and it was decided that if anyone wanted to comment they could do it individually. Nick asked if perhaps we could tweet (or email) the link for our parents, if they wished to get involved.

**c) Empowerment Information**

Empowerment is central to raising attainment & improving outcomes across Scotland. Everyone has a role in closing the poverty related attainment gap, and ensuring that Scotland's young people achieve excellence and equity. The National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFSS) published an 'Empowering Parents and Carers Nutshell' which is a useful guide that will help parents and carers understand their role as an integral part of our empowered education system.

**d) S2 Standardised Tests**

Stuart gave us a slideshow presentation on the recent results of the standardised tests in English and Maths in 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Good results. INSIGHT which highlights performance against the National Improvement Framework has just been published.

**7. A.O.B**

**a) Grass at the rear crossing**

Stuart mention that the ongoing issues with who's responsibility it is to cut the grass at the rear crossing continues but our Janitor, Scott is going to keep an eye on it for us.

**b) Mental Health in schools**

James raised his concern re exam stress and mental health in the school classrooms. Stuart confirmed that we support the pupils in various ways. eg reducing pupil timetable, extra support for individuals in Maths and English classes. We offer help on 'how to study' by using bullet points, mind mapping & study technics. We also have a Health & Wellbeing event in the school on the evening of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, which offers support and advice to parents. Stuart will be issuing shortly S4 Targets to the pupils. This follows on from their prelims results. Miss Boyle confirmed that on Friday we have a company coming into the school to deliver a workshop on 'Mindset for Exams' for our senior pupils. The aim is to support & motivate our pupils during the final few months of preparation for their exams.

Pupils can also self referral themselves for mindfulness.

Miss Boyle also mentioned that next year we aim to start from S1 in PSE classes to show pupils how to study with workshops.

**c) Senior Dance (Christmas)**

Unfortunately there was an issue with the amount of tickets sold, some pupils could not purchase a ticket. It was then realised that this year our S4 pupils were a more sociable crowd than in previous years and a larger year stage. Once we realised what had happened we issued more tickets.

**d) Engagement of the Parent Council**

James feels that we could engage more with the wider community. Our Parent Council information is not clear or easy accessed on the school web page. He mentioned that Williamwood High School had their PC link better displayed. Stuart suggested that he wanted advise or help that he could speak to the school on his behalf. We could set up an email for the Parent Council like we have done for the PTA.

**e) Heading the Ball**

James mentioned with recent news coverage about the link between football and dementia that children under the age of 12 could be banned from heading the ball in training in Scotland. Stuart mentioned that it was not something that we taught in PE and we have had no guidance yet from the council.

Katy said that she had heard that mobile phones we not to be used in class. Stuart confirmed that this was infact correct and mobiles should only be used under teacher instruction.

**Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 at 8pm (incl AGM)**

School Telephone number: 0141 577 2200  
School Email: [schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk)