

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON Wednesday 3rd June 2020 AT 2pm (Virtual Meeting) including AGM

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, Nilam Ijaz, Adele Thomson, Sarah MacLeod

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

APOLOGIES: Rob Catterson, Uzma Khan, Arezu Bari, Umair Khan, Jennifer Nesbitt & Vicky Clarke

1. INTRODUCTION

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (26th February 2020)

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Grass at rear of building. To be discussed at Item 7.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Connect offering free online session Connect Q & A – Catch-up for Parent Council/PTA 2nd June.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

Staffing

Stuart was lucky enough to be able to complete interviews before lockdown.

In Modern Languages – Stephen Hamilton and Barbara Bremner are retiring. Beth Brown (our NQT for this year) and Paul Andreucci from Ayr have been successful in gaining these Posts.

Modern Studies vacancy has been filled by Laura McCafferty (our NQT from this year)
Maths – we have made 3 appointments due to Norman Dickson, Heather Callaghan and Angelina Paterson (who retired very late last June). Zoe Forsyth, Andrew Shirra & David Ingram.

Retirements from Parent Council

3 retirees due to their children leaving school in S6. Stuart and James would like to Val Chisholm, Gordon Wallace & Rob Catterson on their valued contributions and support they have given the Parent Council over their many years of attendance. They will be greatly missed.

6. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

a) **Recovery Planning**

Stuart is heavily involved in the school's recovery plan. Hubs are closing on Friday 5th June and returning to their main school on Monday 8th June. Our pupils will move back to Eastwood and will be using the library. Staff will return to work in Monday 8th, in small groups. Stuart will have risk assessment meetings during the forthcoming week with our Principal Teachers. The Council's Health and Safety Officer was out today for 3 hours going round the school with Stuart, assessing all areas of the school. We are fortunate that our school has a very good layout. From August the practical classes will be 10 and the other classes will be 15. Classes will not return to normal for quite a long time. Year groups will be split and teaching blocks will be longer, which will mean less moving about for the pupils. Stuart mentioned that he has been asked if parents with 2 children in different years can attend at the same time but unfortunately we can't accommodate this.

We hope that every pupil will get the subjects of their choice, two and half hour block of each subject on a rolling basis, 1 week am, 1 week pm.

Gillian Boyle (Depute, for timetabling) said that each pupil will not be in for a full day as it is required that we clean (an hour) between the next block (class). No one will be disadvantaged in any way.

Stuart stated that at the front entrance to the school there will be a desk with hand sanitiser and wipes.

Pupils will be staggered when leaving school at the end of the day to adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

While pupils are attending classes, our cleaners will be wiping down door handles and hand rails etc.

We will initiate a one way system round the school to help with social distancing.

The curriculum will have smaller choice options due to subjects not being able to run now eg. Sports Leader, (placement in school, no longer possible) and Practical Cookery, may have to be removed.

Stuart has been able to download the Scottish Government 40 page documentation and the major issue we have at Eastwood is – how do we transport our pupils from Neilston.

Gillian mentioned that Colleges still wish to run courses but they are still looking at the social distancing rules and how they can apply them.

Moira asked will PE still be on the timetable as pupil's still require exercise. Stuart confirm yes it will not be removed but unfortunately we will not be able to run extra curriculum sports activities eg. Football/ rugby clubs etc.

Moira asked if children will be asked to wear masks. Stuart said in the Scottish Government Documentation it is advised that if you are travelling on public transport a mask is required but under normal operational circumstances, masks are not required but if your child wishes to wear a mask in school, that is acceptable.

Katy asked that when the children are not in school will there be work available for them to complete. Stuart mentioned that teachers will set tasks on Google classrooms for the pupils to complete prior to coming to their class.

Nick asked how will the ASN children needs be supported in classrooms. Stuart said that the Base rooms will accommodate different groups of children depending on the size of the room. Eg. 4 pupils and one teacher.

S6 Common Room will unfortunately will be removed, no social distancing could be adhered to and would be difficult to monitor and we may need to use that space for teaching.

In the Learning Support department – Austin Keogh will be retiring at the end of June and Elinor Mair will become Acting Principal Teacher of Learning Support.

Gillian said that there will some transition work for the new ASN S1 pupils with perhaps we may be able to set up a video meeting with 2 teachers, the pupil and their parent all involved. Gillian said that she will be investigating if this will be viable or not.

Karen asked if pupil's could have an video link with their teachers. Stuart confirmed that East Renfrewshire's Social Media policy prevents the schools taking part in 'Zoom' meetings. Chris Morris, Depute is involved in co-ordinating with staff on how to set up more video links with pupils in the correct format.

Stuart declared that teaching may well never be the same again.

Stuart mentioned that the HUB children have not been asked to wear school uniform but by the time the pupils will return in August, it will have been nearly six months and it would be good if the pupils will return in August wearing their full uniform.

Moira mentioned when New Zealand students returned to school after a major earthquake, they responded very well and many actually thrived. They were ready to return having missed the environment of school, the routine and socialising. Moira suggested that such information may be useful for parents who have concerns about their child.

Stuart said that the last week of term will see our new S1 pupils visit the school in smaller groups over 3 days. He remembered when we moved to our new school in August 2013, in that year there was no transition days for the P7s. Children are resilient and this did not affect them.

Adele asked how will the pupils return in August. Stuart said that due to Scottish Government Guidelines, pupils will not be able to start all at the one time. We have to make sure that every child has the maximum teaching available to them.

b) School Improvement Plan

Advice from the Director of Education is that it should be focused on Learning & Teaching. It will not be a normal Improvement Plan. Practical subjects will be able to be taught after Health & Safety were out this week, they are saying 'yes' eg in tech, if the pupils uses the same tool, it is cleaned at the end of the lesson and left for 3 days. Computing classes pupils will be asked to wipe their computers on arriving in class and before they leave the class at the end of the lesson.

c) AGM

Chair – James – confirmed and 2nd to remain in post for another year.

Vice Chair – Adele confirmed and 2nd to remain in post for another year.

Treasurer – (Val – leaving) – vacancy (As money is dealt with at the PTA, James said they could leave this post vacant for the present time).

7. A.O.B

a) Grass at the rear cross

Stuart has confirmed that grass has now been cut.

Gordon said that it was regrettable that there would be no Prom this year but was delighted that the staff had put together a 'Goodbye' video for the pupils. Refunds for the Prom will be issued from Parentpay in due course.

Stuart confirmed as of Monday, Easyjet have cancelled the flights for Cern. Parents will eventually get a full refund.

Adele confirmed to members that if you paid for a trip through Parentpay you are required to go back into Parentpay to retrieve your money back from your credit card.

Natalie asked about Transition days. Chris Morris has emailed primary schools with details. They will take place on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th June, from 1pm – 3pm. Groups of 10 pupils for transition classes.

James thanked everyone for attending our first virtual meeting and for coping with the technology.

Next meeting was confirmed as 2nd September.

Stuart said that we will keep in touch over the summer with everyone and James wished everyone a good summer.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 8pm

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