

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (Virtual)
Wednesday 23rd September 2020 AT 7pm IN EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT: James Meneely, Nick Bothwell, Shabnam Ijaz, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Natalie McMillan, Moira Forbes, Karen McGrady-Parker, Vicky Clark, Nilam Ijaz, Adele Thomson, Jennifer Nesbitt

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

APOLOGIES: Wendy Durie

1. INTRODUCTION

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. Resignation from Arezu Bari.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (3rd June 2020)

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE

James mentioned that Connect have on-line seminars during the month of October which any of our member can sign up for and attend virtually.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

Stuart thanked everyone for the joining the meeting tonight and for supporting the school over last few month, it has been appreciated.

a) Staffing

Fortunately we are fully staffed at present and all our new teachers were interviewed and appointed the week before lockdown. We as a school have been very lucky to have escaped Covid at present. We are doing everything we can to protect the school, pupils and staff.

b) Covid 19 Recovery Planning

Stuart commented that it changes on a day to day basis. Surprisingly our school attendance is marginally better than last year, probably due to the fact that no one is going on holiday. The first few weeks we had the usual absences due to colds but attendance is good at present. He also mentioned that most of his day is taken up with risk assessments and recently has had to email parents to explain that due to Scottish Government guidelines all physical education must be taken outside.

Technical tools are wiped down at the end of each lesson.

If a child has symptoms in class, a teacher will alert the school office who in turn will alert Senior Management. The child is removed from class and a parent is called to collect the child. Pupils are removed from the classroom and the janitor is called to use his spray gun in the room.

Each teacher has created a seating plan for the class just incase we are contacted by Track & Trace.

Pupils who are exempt from wearing a mask eg with health issues - asthma/anxiety etc have been issued with a 'purple badge' which is worn on their blazer.

Each classroom is issued with wipes and pupils are asked to wipe down their desks on arrival and leaving. This has become a very expensive to the school.

Moira mentioned that she noticed that St Ninians pupils were not wearing masks on the buses. Stuart said that on a regular basis our S1/2 Depute Chris Morris goes to Patterton station at the end of the school day to monitor and keep an eye on the pupil's behaviour and to check with they are complying with the guidelines of wearing a mask on the train. We don't have any contracted buses at Eastwood and the Anton coach that appears in the car park at the end of day is privately arranged by parents who live in the South Park area.

Moira asked if the monies raised by the PTA could perhaps be used to fund the wipes and masks for the school.

Moira also asked if Stuart had heard when the Leisure Centre will be open. Stuart said that there had been no communication and the only people that use the outside area (with prior arrangement) is Giffnock North Athletics (track) and St Cadocs soccer centre (football pitches). Moira has been in communication with MP Jackson Carlaw and he said that it was a local decision as to when it would reopen.

Stuart stated that the money the council is providing, he has decided to use it for S4 supported study classes over the October holidays. The old S3 pupils were the ones who have lost the most education during lockdown and feels it would be beneficial to them.

Nic would like to thank Eastwood's staff for going above and beyond since lockdown. Heart felt thanks to all and it has been noticed by parents what the school has done and how safe the pupils feel.

James also re-iterated that the members of the Parent Council feel the same and would like to thank the school.

6. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

a) HT's Attainment Report 2019/2020

Stuart took us through the school's attainment report for this year although we have not received all the data yet from the Scottish Government. He is very happy with this year's result. Our standardised tests this year showed that the boy – girl gap is not nearly as wide as in other school's. If anyone is looking for details for their child's results please contact their Pastoral care teacher.

b) Parent Council vacancies

Shona confirmed that we can advertise for 9 new members. Shona will organise letter to be emailed to all parents.

c) PC Chair Meeting – feedback

James confirmed that not all feedback has been collated yet, only 6 out of 30 replied back. Everyone has been given more time to respond. General overview by officers were that schools will stay open as much as possible but will be continued to be reviewed. National Parent Forum of Scotland looking for a new rep. Natalie confirmed that she has taken up the said post. James confirmed that Mhairi Shaw (Director of Education) will be retiring shortly and our new Director will be Mark Ratter.

d) Pavements/School Grounds

Karen confirmed that it had been raised at a recent Crookfur Parent Council meeting about our pupils not wearing masks outside the school. Stuart mentioned that today he tanoyed all pupils at the end of the day today remind them to wear their mask to and from school as well as wearing on public transport. He will continue to re-iterate the wearing of face masks to pupils. Stuart has had complaints from our pupils about the volume of Crookfur parents

congregating outside and inside the school grounds while they are waiting for their children where no social distancing is adhered to by the parents.

7. **A.O.B**

Nic asked Stuart if perhaps a note could be inserted into his Newsletter regarding the Disabled Bays. They are not 'drop off' zones. He uses the bay to drop off his son at school in the morning. Parents are speeding into the area with no thought to the pupils who genuinely need to use the area, like his son. Stuart confirmed that himself and Gillian had actually witnessed a car speeding into this area and then driving out of school in the opposite direction of the Arrows. This incident has been caught on cctv cameras, registration of car confirmed and now our Campus Cop is following up the incident. Nic suggested that perhaps a temporary sign, could be erected eg 'Not a Drop off Area'.

Karen commented that 70% of the chat from Crookfur's Parent Council meetings are usually about the inconsideration of parents when driving in and out of the car park and she is sure that they would be willing to help us out to promote safer driving etc.

Stuart said that he would contact the council's wardens to do spot checks in the car park as they have the authority to issue tickets.

Shabnam asked is there any word about how or if the prelims will go ahead. Stuart confirmed that the Prelims will take place but in class time which would mean that the exam papers will be broken down into say 40/45 minutes chunks. S4 prelims will be the first ones to take place. There will be no invigilators for these exams due to their age and their at risk category.

Nic asked if next year's Highers would go ahead. Stuart replied saying that the Prelims would be in February, so things may change by then but who knows. Teachers are teaching courses but don't actually know which topics will be in the actual exams. Natalie confirmed that at the Parent Forum meeting with SNP Education Secretary, John Swinney and Mark Priestly attended and confirmed details would be issued by October.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th November 2020 (virtual)

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