

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL (Virtual)
Wednesday 10th February 2021 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, Adele Thomson, Wendy Durie, Umza Khan, Fiona Edwards, Beverly Stoner, Jacqui White, Graham Campbell, Jennifer Nesbitt

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

APOLOGIES: Nil

1. INTRODUCTION

James welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (11th November 2020)

Minutes approved and seconded. Shona will enter them onto the school's website

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council's Local Improvement Plan has been issued and we have been asked to discuss it at our next Parent Council meeting with comments due back by the end of March. As our next meeting is not till May James will ask Shona to issue the Plan by email and if you have comments please email either James or Shona.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Sports Centre Building works

Large piece of building work is due to take place in the changing facilities, making the area into a 'Changing Village' for the pool and sports area. Adam Gibson (Principal Teacher of PE) was due to meet with the architects and planners to liaise with them as to when the pool would be out of use. Work was scheduled for April time but now it has been moved back till during the summer holidays and because of this the sport halls can now be used for our pupil assessments.

6. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

a) Covid 19 Learning Recovery

b) Senior Phase Assessment and Estimating

(A and B will be discussed together as difficult to separate.)

Amendments have been made to the school calendar, which may change depending on the First Minister's announcement on Tuesday 16th February.

On 22nd February onwards a small number of pupils from our S4/S5/S6 groups will be invited into the school to complete evidence for their SQA work.

On Monday 15th March, senior pupils could return to school for Blending Learning. We have been lucky that our S4 pupils completed their Prelims in December as it wouldn't be fair for our senior pupils coming back to school and going straight into prelims. Our plan is to have S5/6 prelims start on the 15th March and for S4s to have assessments after Easter.

We may have another Inservice Day in May but it has not been confirmed at yet.

Ramadan will run from 12th April till 11th approx.

By Friday 21st May all assessments should be completed and after the May holiday the evidence will be forwarded to Gillian Boyle and Stuart to analysis.

Worth noting that this time last year our assessments had all been done.

If our Senior pupils do not return on the Monday 15th March, then these dates will be updated again.

Blending Learning for S5 pupils will be either AM or PM, this will allow them to plan study time into their timetable.

S4 pupils will have a sort of blending learning once again AM or PM and working from home. 2 subjects per day, 1 subject in school and the other at home.

S1/S2/S3 pupils will have new timetables created, 2 subjects per day, with blending learning in 3 period blocks, ie 8.45-11.15am and 12.15 – 2.45pm. Pastoral care teachers will have catch up meetings with pupils to check that they are coping well and to raise any concerns they have with schooling. With the pupils having 3 period blocks this will enable the teachers to carry out assessment during class time.

James raised a concern about having a break time during the 3 periods. Gillian said that we have taken breaks into consideration and pupils will be able to have different interactive activities during their 3 periods.

Moirra raised the issue of our pupils being mentally stable to come back to school and completing assessments. Stuart said that we totally understand the pressures and it had just been discussed at the Pastoral Teachers Support Meeting today. We don't want our pupils to be disadvantaged due to their lack of attending school. Teachers are well aware of how pupils feel and it is not in our interest to disadvantage them.

Umza said that we should remember not to lose hope, as well as remembering that we are all in this together. Working at the university she can see that it is necessary for more support for Maths and she was glad to read in your recent letter that you are reassuring us that you are doing your best to supporting our pupils. Stuart said that our S1 pupils will be fine, we have plenty of time to re-engagement them in learning and S2 will all embark on new S3 courses. At school the teachers are fully aware of how pupils are feeling and we are here to support them at all times. With our Senior pupils, we need to get it right for them.

Beverly said that as an S1 parent, she feel less knowledgeable and has a desire for a more structured online learning and a better breakdown of how blending learning will work and would hope that information would be going out to parents in the near future.

Stuart confirmed that there will be future correspondence indicating as to where we are going forward in the school. Beverly had a list of concerns from S1 parents and Stuart asked if both Beverly and Gillian would remain on the call at the end of the meeting for them both to discuss with Beverly some of the issues raised.

Gillian presented the parents with an example of how the Blending Learning timetable would look.

Adele asked if the seniors would be able to obtain their exact amount of teaching of each subject. Stuart confirmed that using the blending learning module they would receive their subject entitlement over the 2 weeks.

From Monday 22nd February Stuart said that re the Scottish Government guidelines there has to be 2 metre social distancing between the pupils in their classrooms.

Moirra asked if this date for pupils returning was postponed what would happen to their assessments. Stuart confirmed that this was being discussed at the highest levels nationally. Last year assessment evidence had been completed by this time.

Moirra hopes that children will be given more credit for coping during this pandemic with their mental health and how resilient they have become. Stuart said that when the schools resumed last August, by October lockdown had been a distance memory. Moirra wished that the media would stop focussing on the negative.

c) Covid Testing Roll Out

From Monday 15th February staff will have the opportunity to be involved in the LFD (Lateral Flow Device) self testing kits. Staff and senior pupils will be contacted during that week to complete a consent form prior to collection. Small groups of senior pupils will return from Monday 22nd February to complete SQA evidence for practical subjects. More information will follow to senior pupils with times for collection of the kits on Thursday 18th & Friday 19th February. Margaret McCartney is to co-ordinator the issuing of kits with the assistance of an office member of staff and a PSA.

Umza asked once the kits are collected do they do the testing at home. It is a Home Testing Kit and you are required to record your result on the UK Government website. Umza said that they process about 800 a day at the university.

Fiona asked if the ASN pupils who attend the school are they required to be tested. Stuart confirmed that the testing is only for senior pupils (S4-S6) and it is voluntary. Fiona enquired that if any of our senior pupils on return feel anxious and can't cope are they able to speak to their pastoral teacher and is there provision for them to resit the year. Stuart said that Pastoral care teachers are available and for pupils to resit a year it would have to be considered at a National Level. There would also be an issue for whether there would be a space in the subject for them. Gillian did mention that each pupil is looked at individually. Fiona notified the members that if a parent is looking for information on what a child has to complete on Google classrooms, the best place to find information is on the Google Calendar.

Umza asked if there had been any word about the teachers being vaccinated. Stuart confirmed that in fact it has been rejected by the Scottish Government as a way forward.

Nick would like once again like to thank teachers and staff their supporting the pupils in these crazy times. James echoed his comments.

7. A.O.B

a) The Way Head

Stuart mentioned his letter which was sent out to all parents on Friday, announcement his retirement. He is been in the post as Head Teacher for 19 years and feels that hopefully by August the school should return to normal and he is not a long term solution. He has been involved with 7 parent council chairs. James said that we will miss your leadership, hard shoes to fill, fill we must.

Advert will be in on 19th February closing 2 weeks later (Sunday 7th March). James said that if everyone was happy he would put himself forward for the short leeting process & assessment centre. Stuart mentioned that it will probably go to an assessment centre, where on the panel will be another Head Teacher, members of Education, councillors and Parent Council members. At the interview there will be 3 members and 3 from the local authority, 1 Head Teacher and 2 Head of Services. Tracy Morton, Head of Service will be in touch with James for contact details. If more members are interested in being on the panel there will be another opportunity as Margaret McCartney, Depute will also be retiring at the same time.

Please email James or Shona if you are interested in becoming involved in the interview process. Stuart is happy to provide questions for anyone who is selected to be on the panel. Natalie was involved in the selection of the Head Teacher of Neilston Primary School.

Shona and Stuart thanked the PTA for their generous donation to the school fund.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7pm (incl AGM)

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