**Hillhead High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes** – **Tuesday, 25th May 2021, 19:00**

**Parent Council:** Catriona Futter (PC Chair), Chirsty Hamilton (PC treasurer), Jerome Boué (PC Secretary), Ali Downes, Karen Leeson, Andrea Fisher, Bernie Mitchell, Kate Temple, Annabel Wright

**School Staff**: Mrs Karen McAlaney (HT), Mr Steven Neil (DHT), Ms Nicola Higgins (Pastoral Care Principal Teacher/Acting DHT/Maths), Miss Kirstin Campbell (Music/Pastoral Care PT), Mr Tom Carson (Maths PT/Associate Depute HT), Mr Jack Richardson (PE/PT Skills & Dvpt/Associate Depute HT)

**Parent forum:** 26 members of the Parent Forum

**Apologies:** Mr Neil (DHT)

Agenda:   
1. Welcome and introductions

2. Approve minutes and matters arising

3. Proposal to close Bank Street at Gt W Rd end (someone from BARTA coming to speak to this)

4. End of term plans and how to celebrate achievement

5. Need for more outdoor seating

6. Finance update and funding application

7. Update from school on this term, including assessments and SQA related issues

8. PACE event on 12 June

9. Continued use of iPads

10. Plans to not stream classes in English

11. D of E update

12. AOCB: (i) ASN learning support within class (ii) rationale behind preventing pupils leaving school for recent Middle East rally

13. Dates of meetings for next academic year - to be confirmed

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| **Topic** | **To do** |
| |  | | --- | | **Welcome to PC meeting – PC Chair**   * Welcome to those first attending a PC meeting * More people can attend via Zoom, however face-to-face meetings also have great benefits * Staff intro: Mrs McAlaney HT, Ms Higgins Acting DHT S4, Mr Carson PT Maths, Miss Kirstin Campbell Music/Pastoral Care PT, Mr Jack Richardson PE/Skills & Dvlpt PT * Member of BARTA not in attendance to talk about Bank Street closure | | * If new parent not on mailing list, contact chair to register |
| **Minutes and Matters Arising – PC Chair + HT**   * All approved minutes from PC meeting on 23rd March – all minutes available on PC tab of school website [here](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/hillheadhigh/parent-zone/parent-council/meeting-minutes/) * Update on actions from last meeting:   + Recording of PC Zoom meetings: will not be recorded, however minutes are very comprehensive   + HPV Vaccine Boosters: [Minutes edited post meeting, following HT update on 27-May: *“HPV Vaccinations - As you may be aware the HPV vaccinations for S1 & S2 that were due to take place last term had to be postponed due to lockdown. We have now been informed that these have been rescheduled for Friday 20th August 2021. The Screening Department sent the vaccination pack, which would have included the immunisation consent form directly to the family home, in December 2020. These have been returned by most parents and most have already been collected by the Screening department. The consent forms that were returned to the school from March onwards are in the school office for collection by the Screening Department at the end of next week.  Parents of S1&S2 pupils who did not return a consent form to the school or who did not receive the vaccination pack in December are asked to contact Mr Griffin either by email at gw10griffinbrian@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk or by phoning the school office on 0141 582 0100 by Tuesday 1st June so that he can arrange for a new consent form to be sent out to you. All forms should to be returned to the school office by Friday 4th June 2021. Please note our school office is closed on Friday and Monday due to the holiday weekend.”* ]   + Covid Test: If a pupil gets a positive Covid lateral flow but then gets a negative PCR test (and is well), there is no requirement to isolate, can come to school   + PC format: Will run poll later during PC meeting today about online Vs face-to-face meetings moving forward   + Duke of Edinburgh (raised by co-opted PC member Bernie Mitchell): 12 months ago, uptake in number of DoE programme applications, 12 months on, what is the status/progress? Concern over potential for core activities (eg camping away from home)? In past, staff have expressed some disappointment being unable to take on more pupils - will this continue? Answer from staff Mr Richardson: Rules have changed during Covid, day walks have replaced overnight sleeps, so easier logistically however pupils lose out in terms of experience. Looking into offering DoE places to more pupils, due to lack of overnight trips (at least till 2022). Numbers have been maintained (4th year currently will be highest ever – eg volunteering litter picking in HHS area). Current easing of the rules helps take on more pupils however only temporary.   + **Q** (Parent Forum): which student groups are eligible to apply to D of E award? **A** (Mr Richardson): S4 - 6 |  |
| **End of Year Celebrations**   * Last year, fantastic virtual End of Year celebrations – what are the plans for this year?   **HT Update:**   * Pastoral Care/Music teacher Miss Campbell involved – will have virtual (ie not in person) prize giving/ celebrations by year group, as normal, for this and last year, widening out values, which can be shared virtually with other year groups during classes; will include musical items, presentations and recordings * This year, DHT Steven Neil working on saying goodbye to S6s, who will receive a goodie bag as won't be in school for last day – working on plan   **Miss Campbell Update:**   * Been at school 2 years, so never experienced Wellington Church celebrations * Sense of excitement, celebration, online, very inclusive, acknowledging the effort by pupils this past year * Will have musical performances * Parents will be able to watch videos (compilation of videos, presentations, shared via YouTube, as opposed to live-streams)   **Comment from PC co-optee** **Bernie**: enthused by response, important achievements, especially in senior school, youngest ones will hopefully be able to celebrate in Wellington Church eventually |  |
| **Outdoor Seating Issue**  **PC Member Karen**:   * Issue with space for eating lunch outside in school grounds; personal experience is of daughter coming home with lunch uneaten, S1s have to go into back playground so no seating area; which year group gets where?   **HT Update:**   * There is always space indoors; S1 are in the front playground, S2-3s in the back playground (this swapped after term 2) * Still looking at having more seating areas next year * Process with GCC health & safety regulations shared * **Q** (Parent Forum): the vast majority of outdoor seating is reserved to the juniors and there's barely any space in the dinner hall for senior pupils, so some have to go out to the University campus to find a place to sit   **Q** (Parent Forum): will there be any sports equipment added to the playground, I know my child is disappointed that the basketball hoops are unusable  **A** (HT): School are looking into how to improve outdoor area but need to be aware of tightness of space, grass area is also one of the fire assembly points; HT has monthly meeting with Amey and will review site options. | PC will revisit this and in the future hopefully will be able to explore options for outdoor seating |
| **Treasurer Update**  **PC Treasurer Chirsty Hamilton:**   * Ongoing problems with Bank of Scotland account access due to previous signatories no longer having children in school; on-going for months * BoS rejected cheque, however meeting with Bank tomorrow, parent signatories coming in to complete paperwork (names changes). * Thanks to previous parent signatories for helping get bank issue resolved * Massive thank you to Chirsty for bringing this to resolution * Clydesdale bank account will start charging - need new account with no charges, with a number of people as signatories * PC members to be added as signatories for the new PC account:   + Alasdair Downes   + Andrea Fisher   + Karen Leeson   + Jerome Boué   + Bernie Mitchell * £1,814 in BoS account + £930 in Clydesdale account * 2 things we could spend money on: outdoor seating, basketball hoops * We’ll also apply to new grant of £3k from The Robertson Trust; hopefully could get that within next couple months * Other funding idea: bike shed really full, pupils could be keen on getting additional space * As Glasgow University students come back the spaces to store bikes on GU campus may not be available * Lot of money from GCC spent on bike lanes, encouraging cycling, could we get GCC funding for bike shed?   + Agreement to funding of new bike shed confirmed on Zoom chat by: Andrea Fisher, Annabel Wright, Lisa Crampin, Francesca Vassalli, Pat Crook, Anna Deka, Ulrike Enslein and Anna Dekar | * Andrea to look into GCC funding for bike shed * Chirsty to apply for grant to fund bike shed, basketball hoops, outdoor seating |
| **School Update – HT**   * Seniors - evidence gathering going smoothly, enormous undertaking , 2 in-service days coming up which will provide time for staff * Need 2 timetables, separate one to accommodate final evidence gathering * Lots of discussions with departments & pupils on how to best evidence * Decided to put in masterclasses to help some students (some missed something, or needed more time so masterclass helped with evidence gathering); on a whole, working well, complicated but working * Some masterclasses are timed for after the timed assessments because the emphasis is not on these alone but on all pieces of work * S6: Plan to give their leaving presents before end of term * **Q** (Karen Leeson): What did you say about results for 6th year?   **A** (HT): Provisional results should be given to students (S6) in week beginning 14-Jun, S5s the following week (provisional results); hoping to confirm timeline by next week; demanding logistic requirement   * Thanks and respect to staff members * **P7s:** doing virtual lessons for induction * Always a bit of change with placing requests, etc * Now on revised plan with visits early June, hoping in person, will be different from normal (would be much shorter one) * Lots of different plans arranged over the last few months - again very complicated and time consuming with all Covid restrictions * No space for more lockers in school – space issue, school roll capped for past 4 years however still full – will keep looking at it. * Staff updates: * Congratulations to Mr Carson (PT Mathematics) and Mr Richardson (PT Skills and Achievement) for taking on the roles of Associate Depute Head Teachers until May 2021. They will still continue with their Principal Teacher jobs but will spend a little time each week working with the senior leadership team and taking on some senior leadership responsibilities. * Mr Richardson currently shadowing new S6 Depute Ms Leanne Black * Mr Carson currently shadowing new S3 Depute Mr Stuart Brown, supporting new timetables creation * Steven Neil to become S4& S5 Depute * Ms Nicola Higgins soon going on maternity leave – advert out for maternity leave Pastoral Care role * Mr Matheson retires at the end of term. New staff member appointed. * Modern Studies teacher Miss Hamid moving to new job as Pastoral Care PT in Shawlands – advert out for replacement * Interview for Home Economics teacher coming up * Information Evening for parents/carers of P7 pupils on 10th June Catriona HHS PC chair to attend to introduce work of PC * iPads will continue to be central part of education moving forward * National offers being looked at; wider look at West Online to offer resources, masterclasses, etc. * Not a one-off; been a game-changer; will be looking at how to expand uses post covid. * Huge thanks to Mr Tait for his incredible work * **Q** (PC member Ali): Can the iPads be locked out remotely if they don't get returned?   **A** (MrRichardson): yes, GCC have ways to do this   * Dining Hall now taking cash again |  |
| **PACE Update – PC Member Annabel Wright**   * PACE event in June, taking part in Eco-fair at Woodlands Community Garden 2-5pm Saturday 12-Jun, stalls with repairing children clothing, stalls, environment issues. Got some prize draw of some maps - urban nature maps of Glasgow, ideas for walks , etc. * \*\*\*this event has now been postponed due to the tragic death of a member of the Woodlands Community Garden\*\*\* * PACE collecting empty crisp packets to be recycled rather than binned - please bring them to us at the Eco-fair * Kirstin Campbell – direct school link to work together with PACE | * Annabel to send blurb on PACE to HT for next newsletter * Annabel to contact Miss Campbell to arrange meeting to discuss PACE * Parents/carers to contact the PC chair if interested in supporting PACE |
| **PC Meetings Format**   * Poll Results: 27% virtual, 10% face to face, 63% mix of both * Will talk more with the school about how to do PC meetings moving forward |  |
| **Additional Comments/Questions from Parent Forum**:   * **Q** (Parent Forum): Are water dispensers an option? How many water dispensers are in working order in school?   **A** (HT) We have them in school, just currently not in use due to Covid restrictions; 2 in assembly hall, 1 in other building which will be moved; still being checked/serviced   * **Q** (Parent Forum): are counsellors different from pastoral care?   **A** (DHT N Higgins): yes, 1 counsellor in place in 2015, 2 days a week, however with pupil equity funding, added more counsellors; currently, Miss Higgins also meeting pupils Monday/Tuesday all day (12 appts each week, some pupils, weekly, fortnightly) + counsellors on different days -; change with Action for Children winning the GCC contract beginning next session  DHT Miss Higgins has set up another support group for pupils with bereavement/loss/change issues (4 members of staff now trained)   * **Q** (Parent Forum): will S1s remain in their current class groups going into S2?   **A** (HT): Yes, tends to be the case   * **Q** (Parent Forum): Will the current S2 move to S3 before August?   **A** (HT): may change timetables on 14-Jun, still looking into it and will partly depend on whether more time is needed for the Alternative Certification Model, met with all Departmental leaders in school, some pupils keen, others less so. Need to consider impact of another change on pupils who have already had a lot of change this year. [Note post PC meeting from HT, communicated via weekly Parental Newsletter: *“As many of you may know we usually change timetable in May each year. Last year this was not possible due to lockdown though we did make some change to online learning for the last three weeks of term. After much discussion on whether or not to change timetable on the 14th June (realistically the earliest it could happen due to the Alternative Certification Model in place for S5&S6 pupils this year instead of SQA exams) we have taken the decision not to move to the new timetable until we return in August. Pupils will still have their new timetables shared with them before the end of term but will have continuity for the final weeks of term. The current S5 will return to school on Monday 14th June and Mr Richardson and Miss Black are working on plans for their induction to S6 that will be shared next week.”* ]   * **Q** (PC Member Bernie Mitchell): has Glasgow City Council determined policy for session 2021-22 to catch up on learning pupils have missed?   **A** (HT): policy is about reconnection, continues being looked at; what pupils have achieved is really impressive; moving forward, wider review of curriculum, should come out quite soon, experts report.  (Miss Campbell): from Pastoral Care perspective, remote engagement has been exceptional, really helped by iPad deployment; GCC approach to be a nurturing city, which has been key in school for young people as a whole, not just academically; PC/Support for Learning helping to cope with that; few pupils still worried about falling behind, however, reminded that “we are not behind, we are where we are”, moving forward; need to be in a good place in order to move forward academically  (Mr Carson): in maths, 1st priority was SQA elements, all in hand, final evidence gathering next week; S1-4 online learning really impressive; sociable element of learning still impacted by current restrictions; priority has been reconnecting with other pupils and staff; pupils quite conformable with new normal; academic Progress has continued/continues; many pupils worked very well over lockdown are helping others during study sessions, helping spirit.  **Comment from Parent Forum**: Thanks to Mr Carson for recognising good work and boosting morale for my S1 in particular!   * **Q** (Parent Forum): are there any more report cards going out before school ends?   **A** (HT): all years report cards will be issued between now and end of this week   * **Q** (PC Member Karen): English will no longer be streaming; will change not disadvantage more stable students?   **A** (HT): Pupils will be mixed in 3rd year, aim to increase number of pupils in S4 for Higher Pathways   * **Q** (PC Member Ali): heard of a number of pupils at private schools getting chances to re-sit tests - any comments?   **A** (HT): unable to comment on that – process has to be followed/respected by all schools   * **Q** (Parent Forum): what support is available in class for pupils? How do you assess who gets what support and how it's delivered?   **A** (HT): combination of teachers, head of Dept., Support for Learning PT Ms McGuire perform assessment; numbers defined by formula provided by GCC, but HHS uses Pupil Equity Funding to pay for additional support; look at P7/S1s to see if pupils need support in class; teachers also asked to flag any pupils struggling (PC, EAL, Support for Learning); doing assessments in different ways if necessary in normal years but more difficult/different with Covid. Section on our website on Support for Learning at HHS.  **Comment from PC Member Kate**: Would be helpful for new parents to have clarity/visibility of process; extending communications with parents on this would really help.  **Comment from PC Member Bernie Mitchell:**   * Overwhelmed with level of details presented by Karen, credit to senior management team * Personal thanks to long-serving music teacher, who's retiring end of year.   **Comments from Parent Forum:** Thank you very much to everyone concerned for a very interesting and informative meeting; Thank you to all the PC team for your wonderful work and commitment | * Parents/carers with experience should get in touch with PC, to help support improvement of communications |
| * **Next Meeting: September** | Dates to be confirmed with school |
| * **PC Meeting End** |  |