**Minutes of Hillhead Parent Council Meeting, May 21st 2024**

Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions

**Martina** – Welcomed everyone

Introductions – Martina (Chair), Kiki Komatake, Sandra Huettenbuegel, Nicky Lewis, Vinishree Solanki, Yolanda Ye, Bernie,

Staff: Karen McAlaney(Head Teachers), Steven Neil (DHT), Kristen Campbell (PT Pastoral Care).

Apologies – Ram, Ali, Antonia, Raeda, Sam

Item 2 – Minutes and actions from last meeting

Minutes: Approver Sandra and seconded by Bernie

* **Solar Panels**

Martina & Karen – Installation of solar panels for the school is not going forward. The council took drone shots and their recommendation was that solar panels aren’t possible at this time.

* **Positive Male Role Models**

Young men are being bombarded with images & opinions from influencers who are espousing views that are misogynist. There also issues with influencers showing unrealistic body images, that can affect young men’s mental health. The school & Parents Council are aware of these issues and are thinking of ways to tackle this.

Bernie - Training of young men in school by inviting positive role models. With the toxic masculinity growing in social media, it would be great if there was an opportunity for someone to speak to our young men in school.

Kristen : Work has been done in PSE lessons, pupils have responded well to previous such training.

Bernie: By using slots in the schedules, and bringing in male former pupils who are positive role models and who have done well.

* **Funds raised at Skypark event**

Martina: £1000 raised from Skypark fundraising event. Ali has transferred the money. We can explore that link at Skypark, further. There’s been article published with good pictures - <https://www.glasgowwestendtoday.scot/news/basketball-stars-net-1000-for-hillhead-high-school-1694/>

The money has been given to the school to buy sports uniforms.

Item 3

* **Summer Fayre**

Martina – For Summer Fayre, Sandra and others have offered good suggestions for the fayre. Looking at Swishing -Bring something, Take Something stall. It can be a second-hand clothes stall or pre-loved. Maybe we could ask some young people to model the clothes, then maybe more people will be interested.

Sandra – would prefer that we had a charge for the clothes & other items.

Sandra – It’s too short notice now, but I will email.

Karen – ApparelXchange will provide a clothing bin where people can donate uniforms & other clothes. There have been regular reminders of the event via school app, Twitter/X etc and it was also advertised at the P7 Information Evening. Martina -we will advertise on social media.

The Fayre will be open from 10.00am – noon though helpers & stall holders will get access from 9.00am. Teachers with Nicola is arranging rails and hangers. Prom dresses are getting older, so they need to be up on the stalls and clear some of the old stock.

Item 4

* **Education cuts**

Martina – Cuts to education updates – Glasgow City Parents’ Group, the representative groups of Parent Councils, are carrying out a series of demonstrations. In the wider context, funding is cut in different sectors too, especially MCR Pathways, charity and other orgs will have a knock-on effect.

Cut to Hillhead High staffing will be a reduction of 1.2 teacher next year. 70% of Hillhead High pupils have an additional support need. MCR pathways coordinator will no longer be fully funded. There are also budget reductions. The school has a plan in place to minimise impact on pupils and all of the senior leadership team will take on more teaching periods.

Martina – it’s seems an impossible task for senior management to teach as well. All parents are not aware how these cuts will affect pupils and staff. We will have to balance staff well-being. It also means we will have less money for extra circular activities.

Sandra – People need to be aware of how day to day cuts will impact.

Martina – The Parent Council could put out a very factual newsletter, what the cuts mean for Hillhead High.

Sandra – People can make their own minds.

Nicky– Something similar has come out of Hillhead Primary Parent Council too.

Bernie – To affect the balance between teaching, the school clubs might get reduced.

Bernie – The group should continue the momentum for fundraising.

Item 5

**School Trips**

We will need to discuss plan for school trips– Blackpool and cinema. Pupils are going to other events; less funding & increased cost may have an impact on what we are able to offer.

Nikki – Re the Blackpool trip, rationale around who gets to go, could we explore other more local options.,

Martina – Some pupils do enjoy it and perhaps wouldn’t get to go if not offered by the school. We do need to be mindful of the cost of the school day & parents/carers who may not be able to afford it.

Sandra – Could we find something more local. Other school asks parents for payment, some parents may be quite happy to pay for school trips too.

Karen – It may be helpful if parents could volunteer to support with some of the larger trips, but they would need PVG’d.

Martina – We can look into getting parents council members PVG’d for trips.

Item 6

* **School Improvement plan**

Karen – 3 big things that happened this year.

1. Learning & Teaching Conference on the May Inservice Day. A key priority this year was to develop our new learning and teaching strategy and this was launched at the conference. We had staff from our learning community deliver sessions on the day too. come up, We had an amazing day at the conference and are now working with pupils to develop a pupil version of the strategy.
2. Destinations: positive and sustained destinations. Increased number of pupils in higher education and fewer in training which is often less sustainable.
3. Attendance – post-pandemic attendance is a national and international concern. Improving attendance has been a real focus this year – communication, support for pupils and families and training for staff. This has meant attendance has increased on the previous year.

Steven: **Exams** – we have a big focus on Evidence Gathering for S4 to S5. SQA exams this year, the pupils in S5 & S6 have been fantastic. We want to give communication and comfort to the pupils. In terms of their attitude, Pupils have come over on time. Pupils are making sure all electronics devices are away. Invigilators have been very pleased.

Steven: **School vision** – we launched the vision statement during school assembly – “ We Thrive Together”. We are also looking at mission statements and objectives that will be build up.

**S4 – on monthly basis**, we have planned an online drop in via teams. Opportunity for parents & carers to login their children’s iPad. Opportunity to get a 5-10 mins slots. Parents & Carers can drop in to discuss. A point of contact. Steven does it for S4 & S5. Tom does it for S6.

Kirstin: **Wellbeing** – Rights Respecting School Award. we have been now awarded the Silver Award. Recognises that effort has happening across the school. If reflects how we teach, and address empowerment of pupils.

Report from UNICEF. Our assessor was impressed. Quote by one of the young people– “We feel safe at school, it’s not just brick & mortar”.

Next steps is to go for Gold Award. Lots of work already done, and we are building upon it for next year. It shows how much we care about our young people.

Item 7

* **PC Finance update**

Finance - £1009.6 Ali is looking for new secretaries.

Item 8

* **PC working for next academic year**

Fundraising – for local trips, experiences and trips

Karen – possibly some funding for resources for Duke of Edinburgh.

Add link of go fund me – in the newsletter to raise funds for the school.

Skills – we can offer to the school. Making connections. If anyone feels they have got, we could offer this school.

Nikki – Explicit shoutout – that parents can offer their skills to school.

Nikki – conversation about smart phones, I’m interested in hearing school’s views. It has to be societal change.

Karen – Digital devices policy. Relaunch the policy from the lens of wellbeing. Will share again with parents what we are doing.

Date of next meeting– to be confirmed in the new term