Minutes of KGS Parent Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2020

***Venue*:** Virtual meeting on Google Meet

**Present:** Neil Kidd, Trish Winchester, Laura Simmers, Liz Bain, Gillian Hendry, Kevin Pirie, Jenni Mc William, Donna Mackie, Marie Comrie

***Apologies*:** Carly Ralfs

***Approval of minutes from previous meeting on 21st January***: Proposed by Marie Comrie, Seconded by Trish Winchester

***Matters arising from Minutes***: There were no matters arising

***Correspondence:***

Invoice received from Council for Gambling licence

Bank Statements for March, April and May received

Thankyou card sent to Bruce Ross for sponsoring the quiz night

***Fundraising:***

Neil Kidd has booked the golf club for early November (date to be confirmed) so that quiz night can be held to raise funds for KGS.

£250 received from Beatrice Wind farm via Strathisla Community Council-for PE department

£250 agreed form Beatrice Wind Farm via Keith Community Council-for PE department-awaiting payment of same.

***Funding Requests:***

*Granted-*

After School Bakery Club/Baking packs for 2020-2021 - £128.80

22 Art Packs - £220

School ties for 1st year students-amount to be confirmed

Dux and 6th year prizes - £150

Merit Awards - £150

School Lockers for pupils – up to a maximum of £2000

*Retirement Gift for Jamus McPherson*: In view of Jamus’ support and dedication to the parent Council and KGS, the Parent Council voted to get him a gift to show our appreciation. Laura Simmers to organise this.

*Not Granted-*

Request for supplies for Outdoor learning, 2 new table tennis tables and a new Unihoc set – Kevin Pirie to investigate if these can be obtained for a cheaper price.

***Rectors Report*:**

KGS has been busy developing contingency plans for pupils returning to school in August. However, after Scottish Government announcement today, the aim is for all pupils to be back to school full time on 11th August, providing it is safe to do so. Information on a contingency plan, should this not be possible, will be sent out to parents in the next 1-2 weeks.

Risk assessments will have to be carried out for staff and pupils, depending on individual needs. Phased return and additional support may be required for certain pupils.

There should not be any staff shielding after the summer holidays.

Some members of staff have booked holidays towards the end of the holidays and may have to quarantine when they return, thus leaving staffing short.

2021 summer holidays will be 7 weeks.

Pupil Support has been doing socially distanced visits and walks with some pupils. Health and well- being of pupils remain a priority.

Show My Homework got updated during lockdown – this has created problems for some staff and pupils accessing/setting work. Some senior pupils have not been engaging with national education programme-this is going to be followed up.

KGS moved all pupils up a year earlier than initially planned. Pupils and Staff coped well with the change. Everyone has learned new IT skills from having to work remotely. These skills will be useful to support pupils who are off sick or who have anxieties about coming to school.

Staff found it difficult balancing work and childcare.

If lockdown recurs in the future, exams may need to be deferred again. Teachers have already started gathering evidence so they will be prepared should it happen.

Kevin Pirie praised Liz Bain’s leadership skills during a particularly stressful time, dealing with the unknown and constant changes. The parent Council extended its thanks to Liz and her team for the quality and frequency of updates, and their hard work to ensure our children were supported and educated during the pandemic.

**Staffing:**

Liz Bain will continue in her role as rector and Ruth Jenkins will continue as deputy head teacher until October 2020.

Sheila Whyte is retiring from the English Department. Ms Lockhart will be the new English teacher.

Anna Wiseman will be commencing her maternity leave and Margaret McBean will be starting in August to replace her.

1 ASN may be leaving to go on a secondment.

***Next Meeting*: will be held on 8th September**. Business meeting at 18.30 hours followed by AGM at 19.00. Venue to be determined nearer the time, depending on pandemic status.