**Agenda for Keith Grammar School Parent Council Meeting held on**

**Tuesday 24th October 2023 6:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Neil Kidd, Jackie Duncan, Amy Bender, Laura Simmers, Theresa Coull, Jenni McWilliam, Gordon Larg, Lesley Watt, Linda Riggal, Sean Duffy, Acting Head at Grammar

1. Apologies: Donna Mackie, Gillian Stevenson, Lesley Forest, Wiekus van Straaten, Laura George, Muriel Laughton
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting approved by Neil Kidd and Jackie Duncan.
3. Matters arising from Minutes:

Follow up parent focus group meetings? Not certain if they continued-Sean to follow-up.

ASN diversity funding? Did Laura manange to get it? Sean to inquire.

Requests for funding-9 were turned down due to lack of exploration of alternative funding sources, many little ones. Interested in knowing who might re-apply? Funding bids in? Possibly locate these applications?

Write letter officially thanking for 4,000 pounds S6 have received report and REAP, had hoodies also. Full funding. Faye Winters REAP Scotland. For attention of Enintore Wind Farm.

1. Acting Head Teacher’s Report-Sean Duffie-Sept 22nd start and full time since the holidays. Highlights: Moray Young Citizen of the Year, 3 pupils achieved and certificates given in school to Cailtin, Lucy Main and Lucy Mark, primarily for sports.

ASPIRE North-S4s met with ASPIRE North. Pupils signed up for university career and making informed decisions with learner pathways established to prepare students. Also showed graph of Senior Student Leadership Team.

Well-being base has been set up, open to pupils and staff. The base provides safe space and member of staff to support pupils who need to reset or take time out so that they can get back to class. Showed graphs of Nat 5 and Higher historic and projected goals with anticipated rises in each area this year. Working to redevelop 3rd year courses. Maths has been rescheduled 3 time slots a week rather than 2. Maths department gone from 8 at Higher to 35 this year with the addition of applications of maths.

Alan is phasing back in-part time, working and planning with SLT to ensure smooth transition. 6 Nov will be full time. Sam Martin, Kevin Pirie, Laura Main as deputes will return to ‘normal status’ from 6th.

1. Treasurer’s Report-Treasurer was unavailable to attend. Linda reported the accounts are away to be audited and are healthy. Roughly £9,500 with some active schools money, and some prize money for 200 club.
2. Communication- Issue raised by Linda. Sean responded need mass survey: Group Call, Expressions, Email, Text, Facebook, need to identify most popular and most preferred route. Perhaps focus session. It was noted there was a lack of information for new parents. So difficult with perfect storm of Alan being off, new DHT, the new office staff. Suggestion of parent dates published to let people know in the form of a term plan. Parents are now getting text messahes to tell the to check email. This week office staff are to be trained by Lossiemouth and to look at Buckie and Speyside to see how they manage data-SEEMIS, etc. Perhaps introduce new people in office and describe what they do? Homework and how to communicate that to parents is also a query. There is a challenge with home working in using different platforms, consistency would help. Teams, Google Classroom, Glow, Show My Homework… Sean explained that it was thought students benefitted from being introduced to a variety of platforms. Perhaps the school can look at the strengths of each and use Teams for informational purposes, while Google Classroom might be better suited for tasks.

Need to find out if termly is too much. Do people want video? Oral communication rather than written? Consistency with communication from teachers is an issue. This week staff are considering Power Up your Pedagogy. Staff are looking at what does a lesson structure look like-learning observation starts next week with focus on senior phase. They are well aware and trying to address consistency across departments.

Also information about S1 abitility to leave campus at lunch was not provided to parents. Sean suggested that would be an item appropriate for the school planner. Teresa Coull raised the issue of getting out of school and that students who must have school meals can’t go out, yet their peers get out. So they choose to go up the street for friends and go without food. Equity issue. Doesn’t help uptake of free school meals, either. Sean highlighted that healthier food also not as attractive to students. It was noted that eating at breaktime with card was helpful. Students do not leave at break times.

A concern was raised about a perceived downturn in discipline -uniforms expected, having people back in on time and seems to have been a downturn. Sean said lateness after break and lunch significant issue. Toilets, vaping in toilets issue as well. Having a double period and 5 minute break is causing problems when students are allowed to leave the room. Focus on getting structure right and having the learning and teaching in place to begin to tackle this.

1. Student Assembly Christmas-Is it possible to have the students travel to St. Rufus? Laura Main will be in touch with Amy. Neil raised safety issue travelling down to the church. Stopped back at Covid. Risk Assessment, etc. Was a Friday afternoon. Perhaps with timetabling, this was affected. Idea of a community focus week: working in Care Homes, litter picking, activity week. Build community environment for the school even work within community of Newmill, Rothiemay…

S6 trip this year? Last year was successful. S5 should be raising funds this year already. Same location does not have to be considered. There is a residential in Cullen and the Sea School. A link has been made with Buckie, it has been framed around Scotland’s curriculum.

1. RE for students years 4-6, compulsory until age 16. RMPS built into social subjects rota, S5 and S6 it is not built into curriculum. Being creative in terms of staffing. Mr. Pirie, Looking at option equitable plan. Needs to have a passionate teacher. RMPS can help with Ethics cup, philosophy, developing the whole person. PSE-health, UPS tracking against benchmarks, RMPS bigger world picture should be connection between 3 of them. Look at opportunities available for young people to build skill options. Difficulty with dance, also, perhaps build Stage Starts into the curriculum as Buckie built sea school?
2. Correspondence -nothing received
3. Funding Requests-nothing received, see above.
4. Date of AGM meeting-possiblity of having it in Jan? Possibility of having S1 parents’ night table. Sean will put out dates for upcoming nights and then decision would be taken for date on What’s APP.