**Minutes of Parent Council Meeting**

Caldervale High School

30th August 2023

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| Present | Apologies |
| Karen Turner, Secretary  | Elaine Burns |
| Danny McNulty, Head Teacher  | Christine Campbell |
| Ryan Irvine, Deputy Head Teacher |  |
| Shona Baxter  |  |
| Lorna Booth  |  |
| Barry Polatajko  |  |
| Lorna McGhie  |  |
| Peita Anne Paterson  |  |
| Laura MacKay  |  |
| Kim White |  |

**Welcome and Apologies**

* Head Teacher Danny McNulty opened the meeting with a welcome and requested a change of agenda to hear DHT report first.

**DHT Update**

* DHT Ryan Irvine shared with the council the school’s vision for the “Caldervale lesson”. Presentation attached

**HT Update**

* VSE, school improvement plan (SIP), Equity Plan and attainment summary all discussed. Council members asked for more detail on attainment figures which Danny explained.
* Update attached

**Parents Questions**

* Vaping policy at school
	+ Some parents had asked for clarification on the school’s policy and about issues with vaping in toilets at school. Danny confirmed that the policy is no vaping (or smoking) is allowed within school grounds, however this is hard to police in toilets etc. It is also not helped as some parents are providing their young people with vapes and allegedly some outlets are selling vapes to underage young people outside the school. There is hope that the Scottish Gov will pass legislation banning single use vapes. The Parent council would encourage the parent forum to report any establishments selling vapes to underage young people to NL Council.
* Car park at pick up time
	+ Some S1 parents had mentioned difficulty in parking in the pickup area at home time as it was almost always full. Danny explained that there is an NLC IT hub in the school grounds and since Covid, more council employees are making use of the facilities meaning the car parks are being used more. There is also an increase in the number of pupils being dropped off and collected by taxis. Due to the layout of the carparks and drop off area, there is no easy solution.
* School photos
	+ Since Covid, there has been no school photographs taken and some members of the Council offered alternative options for getting photos taken. Danny will contact John Wilson Photography who offer an online service and the option to order photos not just immediately after the event but later too, which will hopefully offer a solution for parent and carers. The Parent Council would like to stress there is never an obligation to buy school photos.
* Communication from school
	+ There was a general feeling that communication from the school could be better. Examples used were no Twitter posts during exam time/results for seniors, no posts at start of school (especially for S1 parents) and no information about timetables, clubs etc. Danny said he was concerned by issues with Twitter (or X) and that had meant no/fewer posts. Karen Turner asked that if the school was not going to use Twitter/X for communication then another method must be used and set up quickly. Danny would confirm what would be happening shortly.
* College/Uni visits
	+ Lorna Maghie expressed concern that there appeared to be little involvement from the school for seniors about Uni and college open days and that many young people who would perhaps not attend themselves could do with some advice or guidance from the school. As there are many open days, she appreciated the school could not help financially to get young people there, but perhaps more local ones, like Glasgow, Stirling etc could at least be co-ordinated. Danny agreed to investigate co-ordinating something.
* Calendar for year
	+ Barry Polatajko asked that parents received a calendar/timetable for the year to allow for planning ahead. After the issue with last years 2nd year having to choose subjects before report cards were issued or having a parents evening, the council was keen to ensure this did not happen again. Danny explained that he had been absent during this time but would ensure it would be resolved for this year. He would also look at publishing a calendar of events.
* School trips
	+ Peita Anne Paterson asked if there were any school trips planned as other Secondary schools in NL seemed to have a good few already diaried but there had been nothing from our school. Danny discussed the issue of getting teachers to be able to cover for these trips as they are dependant on them giving up their time to organise and take them. He mentioned there would be trips to local areas by depts throughout the year. The council understood this but thought it could be looked at again, as many children have missed out on experiences due to Covid and given the time it takes to save and organise trips abroad, some may never get an opportunity. Kim White asked if some of the trips (like Titanic Belfast) could be opened up to more pupils. Danny agreed to go back to the staff and look at options.

Agenda points not discussed due to time constraints

New office bearers

Constitution

Meeting Dates for rest of year

Next meeting Wed 4th October possibly 6.30pm Time to be confirmed as some members of the council struggle to be present for 6pm due to work/travel commitments.

Meeting is due to be AGM

**Parent Council Update August 2023**

**Attainment August 2023**

Positive trends in attainment – see attached sheet

**Staffing**

Unfilled vacancies exist in the following posts :

* Teacher of Computing – currently out to advert
* PT Modern Languages - this post will be interviewed next week.

**New LCSC Model**

2 S1 classes will be initially taught full time in the LCSC. This is our new Intensive Support LCSC model. There are 11 pupils between the two classes. We have appointed two primary qualified teachers to teach these classes. The pupils will integrate into the mainstream at their own pace – this could be at any point in their time here. Staff from the mainstream will also work with the new S1 classes for practical subjects. Our other 8 S1 LCSC pupils will have the universal LCSC support – ie, in a mainstream class with support and base time as appropriate.

**VSE Report**

Previously issued to PC members. The report reflected the findings of our own self evaluation.

**Improvement Plan**

Our improvement plan is attached for discussion and highlights our improvement priorities for the coming session.

**Library**

A group of S6 students supported by two teachers will look after the library. There will be input from NLC Libraries to support them.

**Improvement Planning Session 23/24**

**Broad Improvement Priorities**

As previously indicated, the improvement priorities will not differ hugely from last year –

* **Improvements in attainment and achievement**
* **Improvements in learning and teaching, leading to improved outcomes for learners**
* **Improvements in attendance and wellbeing**
* **Development of our curriculum to ensure each learner has a curriculum appropriate to their needs, which will prepare them appropriately for a positive post school destination.**

Within these areas we are looking at the following :

**Improvements in attainment and achievement**

* Increase number of pupils attaining 7 qualifications at SCQF 3 or above by end of S4 to 90%
* Increase the number of pupils attaining at least 1@N5 to 80% next session, with an aspiration of attaining at least 85% by session 25/26
* Increase the number of pupils attaining at least 5@N5 to 38% next session, with an aspiration of attaining at least 40% by session 25/26
* Increase the number of pupils attaining at least 1@Higher to 55% next session, with an aspiration of attaining at least 60% by session 25/26
* Increase the number of pupils attaining at least 5@Higher to 14% next session, with an aspiration of attaining at least 18% by session 25/26
* Close the attainment gap between pupils in SIMD 1-2 and 7-10 at National 5 and Higher – this gap is currently sitting at 35% approx. for 1@5, 5@5 and 1@6, and at 21% for 5@6

**Improvements in Learning and Teaching**

* Develop the Caldervale Lesson Standard
* Have this standard implemented across the school by October 2023
* Evaluate the impact of the lesson standard in learning walks in December 2023 and at agreed time in 2024
* Development of robust arrangements for moderation with time set aside on inservice days and staff meetings to take this forward.
* Moderation sub group to be established to lead on this area

**Improvements in Attendance and Wellbeing**

* Focus on attendance of pupils in SIMD 1-2 to close the gap between these pupils and those in SIMD 7-10; currently there is a 10% gap in attendance between the most and least deprived average attendance.
* Continue to develop supports for pupils’ wellbeing and mental health
* Further refine and enhance our GIRFEC processes to ensure the needs of all learners are being met

**Development of our curriculum to ensure each learner has a curriculum appropriate to their needs, which will prepare them appropriately for a positive post school destination.**

* Ensure the careers education standard is fully embedded across the curriculum
* Ensure all learners have access to appropriate work experience related to their chosen career path
* Develop a curriculum with appropriate courses and pathways which allow flexibility for learners
* Improve learner tariff points and experiences through the introduction of SCQF courses across year groups.

Attachments:

Ryan Irvines Power Point presentation “Caldervale Lesson Vision”

Attainment figures

Equity Plan