# Chryston High School (CHS) Parent Council

# Wednesday 13th March 2021 6.30pm (online)

Present: Ailsa Macdonald, Avril Hemphill, Morven Strange, Karen Chapman, Yvonne Sloan, Sharon Bowie

In attendance: Mr Mitchell, Roy Boyd, Julieann Cochrane, Joanne Leedham

Apologies: Mr Kane, Michelle Brown

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| Agenda item number | Title and content | Action |
| 1 | **Welcome and apologies**  The chair welcomed all attending the meeting. | none |
| 2 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes of previous meeting on 17th January 2021 were proposed by Roy Boyd and seconded by Avril Hemphill | None |
| 3 | **School Report**  Chloe McMullen, Danielle Phee and pupil representatives were presented with a Vision Schools Award by Judge Robert Rinder through Glasgow University for their contributions to holocaust education on 11th Feb 2021. This was the cumulation of commitment from both staff and the committee of the school parliament.  CHS has been verified by SQA to become a presenting centre for vocational courses. This will enhance the offering of construction courses, plumbing etc. to senior pupils with sufficient staffing and expertise within the school. Courses will initially be delivered by Andy Jopling and Scott Beaton. Pupils will be able to earn SQA tariff points in addition to SCSC cards.  **Staffing**  The position of finance assistant shared amongst local schools has gone to interview. This will relieve pressure on the senior management team who have been dealing with budgets in the interim.  7 CHS Probationers had successfully interviewed to go on to the North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) supply list.  Mr Mitchell will continue to support Chryston Primary School Leadership after Easter on the condition that there is backfill to CHS senior management team. NLC are keen to look at executive campus headships in line with other local authorities. |  |
| 4 | **Online learning and phased return**  It has been a difficult few weeks re-writing timetables to accommodate the phased return. Mr Mitchell has been impressed by the staff commitment in implementing this. Thanks go to the school community who have adjusted brilliantly to the new classroom/ teaching arrangements and parents for their support. The hope is to be able to return to 1m distancing after Easter.  Mr Mitchell presented the findings of the parental survey on CHS online learning since January 2021. Key points were-   * 3/5 star rating was the average return based on the question ‘Please indicate how well your child is feeling about their learning.’ * 30% of parents feel CHS should be offering more ‘well-being/PSHE’ lessons * Almost all faculty areas/subjects mentioned across the survey. Data dependent on subjects young people are engaged in throughout S1-S6. S3 returned the most responses. * Varying responses to the question was amount of work too much/ too little, relating to year groups/ number of subjects. * Setting of difficulty of work seemed to be good. * More surveys imminent (including staff & parents) * Regular teacher check-ins/teams meets/live-real time learning highly identified by parents and young people * Faculties identified as worth highlighting for their digital provision will share working practice across the school as part of continuing professional development.   Mr Mitchell highlighted that although pupils were only in 1 or 2 days per week, teachers were generally committed to teaching most of the day to support the smaller class sizes. There was a tension between delivering face to face learning and the expectation that teachers can still support home learning too.  Feedback from attendees was that the decision by NLC to have pupils in for full days was sensible and that pupils have enjoyed being able to meet up with friends in the whole year group on these days.  There has been a high uptake of lateral flow COVID-19 tests amongst senior pupils, which has been reassuring to school staff and given confidence to pupils. Almost all staff and school support also undertake twice weekly testing. There has been one case since pupils returned which was caught early, resulting in less isolation. This is an endorsement that the process is working. |  |
| 5 | **32 periods a week timetable**  As part of the NLC budget saving proposals, all high schools are moving to a 32 period week from August 2021. This will be Monday to Thursday 8:55am-3:45pm and Friday 8:55am-12:30pm. NLC has assured CHS that there was a public consultation about the change though no attendees recalled this.  With the increasing CHS roll to 926, at present there will not be loss of teaching staff at present. The projected fulltime equivalent teacher entitlement for 2021/22 is 62.6 and provisionally 0.89 FTE for the attainment challenge fund. This compares to 63.7 FTE for 891 pupils this year.  NLC are looking at delivery of some activities such as Active schools and community learning and development on Friday afternoons. It is anticipated that there will be opportunities for supported study, voluntary clubs, school show rehearsals etc. on Friday afternoons dependent on staff volunteering to deliver such activities in their own time. Alternatively in promoting mental wellbeing, the balance between screen time and activities may be met if Friday afternoons are for homework causing less stress at the weekend.    There is no final outcome regarding Friday afternoon transport arrangements. Pupils entitled to free lunches will receive these on Friday lunchtimes. There are some concerns that more vulnerable pupils may be less likely to engage with Friday afternoon activities and thought will need to go into how to do encourage them to do so.  Changes to subject allocation when moving from 33 to 32 period week include-  S1 loss of voices and choices  S2 will now have 3 periods a week of both science and modern languages  S3 will have still have 9 subjects but one period less of modern languages  S4 will have 7 subjects at 4 periods each 2 PE, 1 RE and 1 PSHE (all of which required by law)  S5 will have 5 subjects at 6 periods each. Mentoring which is currently a separate period per week will be incorporated into leadership skills as part of PSHE.  There will be marketing by NLC regarding the timetable change.  Yvonne Sloan commented that it was good to see the curriculum map this evening and could this be shared with the Parent Forum.  It is unlikely the school will be able to work with external partners, such as colleges before August to deliver the new curriculum. It is anticipated that there will be less movement between cluster schools for senior pupils if they can now attend lessons virtually. Yvonne Sloan initially had concerns about not starting new subjects until August, however her daughter thinks that this will be fine. | Mr Kane will ask for input on communication of changes to parent forum. |
| 6 | **Feedback from Parental Consultative Group and other meetings**  The chair attended the parent consultative group on 11 Feb 2021, however similar to the previous session in November much of the information had become obsolete (e.g. S1-3 blended learning post-Easter and 8% of pupils returning before Easter). The blended learning offerings had been different across NLC.  Andrew Gillies, NLC social work, had spoken on the stigma of being a ‘vulnerable child’ in the school environment.  A session was held on 4 Mar 2021, led by Connect on what a parent council constitution should look like. It should be a working document that states the aims and covers who members are, how to become one, banking, access for PVGs and how to deal with individual representation. In addition parent councils may have policies relating to equality and diversity, social media use. |  |
| 7 | **Constitution and Code of Conduct**  Following the meeting on constitution, the chair proposed that CHS Constitution should be revisited as it had not been revised for several years. It is important to keep it easily readable. It currently does not include details on holding meetings online and following the parental engagement survey, this is an option that should be retained.  To amend the constitution, the parent forum need to have 2 weeks notice prior to the meeting.  It was suggested that attendees look at the current constitution and code of conduct by the end of April and forward comments to Roy Boyd, who agreed to draft an eye-catching format. The chair thanked Roy for volunteering to undertake this task. | Attendees to review current constitution and bring comments to next meeting.  Roy Boyd will then format the revised constitution. |
| 8 | **Chryston High Supporters Update**  Chryston High School Parent Council currently have 325 followers and Chryston High School Supporters have 249 followers on Twitter.  CHS Supporters 500 club monthly draw has had a couple of members drop off. Some more promotion will be useful. Funds stand at £1377.  Cheques may be an issue for some and options for online payments should be looked in to. | Secretary/ treasurer to look at banking options for direct payment to accounts for 500 club winners. |
| 8 | **Correspondence**  Invite to Information sessions on the role of the Parent Council 28 Jan and Constitution and Code of Conduct 4 March and Communication and Social Media 22 March information events online.  *Action: Invite circulated to Chryston High School Parent Council members*  Contact from parent asking to raise issue with school requesting more contact (such as online classes) as worried about anxiety levels in daughter.  *Action: responded asking parent to contact daughter’s head of year in the interim to discuss and that would raise at next parent council.*  Request from National Parent Forum to share video link to resources on how parents can support children during Lockdown.  *Posted on Parent Council Twitter account by treasurer* |  |
| 9 | **AOCB**  Mr Kane stated that the options process has been amended this year. Information will be distributed this week with report cards being issued within the next 2 weeks. The aim is to have the option choice process completed by the end of March.  The school website will host Options resources   * Presentation for each year group * Prospectus for each year group * Videos from faculty and school captains on their options journey through their school career * Downloadable options form   Pupils should have a conversation at home about what learning they are enjoying. They should then complete an MS Forms on Teams prior to a discuss with their pupil support teacher. Pupils will then have an online interview on MS Teams with their pupil support teacher.  Joanne Leedham had had a conversation regarding options with her son that evening which seemed to go well. |  |
| 10 | Date of next meeting **Wednesday 19th May 2021 6:30pm** |  |

*Please note:*

*Should anyone have any items for Agenda or any apologies please contact Office Bearers or leave a message at school office. Many Thanks.*