St Ambrose High School Parent Council



Minutes of meeting Monday 3rd December 2018

**Key – EL = Elected Member, PF = Parent Forum, DHT = Depute Head Teacher, SL= School Leader, TS= Teaching Staff**

Present: K Robb (Chairperson), M McQuade (Vice Chairperson), A Millar (Church Representative), S Harvey (Clerk), R Wallace (EL), K Hamill (EL), K McGhie (EL), J Gilmour (EL), Paola Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), A Simpson (TS), F Weir (TS), M McQuade (SL),

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**
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| 1. **Apologies**
* Elaine Warnock, Michelle Smith, Rachel Blair
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| 1. **Correspondence**
* No correspondence
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| 1. **Previous minutes address**
* Name of organisation for cheque
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| 1. **Campus Issues**
* .Blue Water. Letters went out to Parents. School is being tested. Copper present in water. Reassurance from previous tests not sufficient. Tests are being carried out independently. Flushing system and replacing with plastic pipes will happen. On going process until no evidence of blue water is there. Local Authority providing bottled water. Staff present at meeting expressed that the situation with water was not an issue. Staff are using the filter taps. Particularly bad in Buchanan High. Article in the Sunday Post and we were ready for parental enquiries this morning. In the beginning we raised this with Balfour Beattie as part of the snagging issues within the building. Visitors tomorrow will be doing independent tests. More importantly we are sharing any information that we have with parents.
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| 1. **NLC Review**
* Mrs MacPhail presented NLC review on screen. Mrs Douglas and Mrs MacPhail will attend Attainment review at St Andrews. This is presented in this format for the first time and is much more interactive. We can examine school breakdown of attendance and also look at other schools. Free school entitlement shows that below the average level. Our attendance levels are good and also consistent. Long term absences are examined and how to support this. The report ollows us to filter by SIMD, gender, care experience etc. Mrs Douglas raised the issue of losing Attendance Officers and the concerns this causes us. Our school partnership officer is heavily involved in this. The group asked if we had means to contact local authority about this but we can send a referral which is causing the Reporter to be inundated. The attendance officer had an aura about them and we have lost this. Looking at the Attainment by Deprivation graph of 2017 there are indications that we are definitely closing the gap. Candidate destinations. Over half of our pupils go onto further education and we concentrate very much on recording positive destinations. So much of this is data driven but we go beyond the data to say what can we do about this.
* Mr Weir leads the members in violence prevention. Learning by little things such as litter. Pick it up and put it in the bin. Learning coping strategies.
* Mrs Simpson will be looking at current S4 data as this group were the first lot of pupils involved with PEF in S3 last year.
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| 1. **Report from Head Teacher**
* S4 Schedules start tomorrow and we are still insisting that pupils go to class before and after exams to study and revisie.
* Our Patronal Feast is on Friday and the Bishop and clergy will celebrate mass with us.
* Advent Banners will go up tomorrow
* Group watched the video of the pupils singing at Edinburgh Castle and enjoyed tremendously. Mrs Douglas spoke about the official event in Edinburgh Castle and commented on Notre Dame singing as being angelic and enjoyed with the pupils the experience of such a high profile event
* Father Kane and Mia are our Strictly Champions. £1700 raised at the event and Mrs Simpson will donate this money to the crisis in Yemen.
* S6 official photographs happened today.
* S1/S2 party Friday 14th from 7pm-9pm.
* Staff childrens party 14th from 4pm-6pm.
* Christmas Concert is Tuesday 18th December.
* Snowball Dance is Wednesday 19th December
 | Sharon will email invitations to guests |
| 1. **A.O.C.B**
* Group member noted that the parental engagement evening was very good and they got so much from it. It was good to put faces to the names when meeting Matt Stewart and the Police Officers and they were very approachable. If this is run again maybe a good idea to open to all, although it may become too big. There is a plan to hold another evening next year.
* New appointment in Pupil Support. Vacany went national. Mr T Roy takes up the post and is brother of Mr J Roy. Mr Roy teaches Modern Studies and Politics. He will be in post by December 10th. We do not want to switch pupils so Mr Roy will ease into role and will be fully embodied by June.
* Chairperson brought the idea of parent council holding a quiz night. Date in February suggested although we have a sleepover planned for February 15th.
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| 1. **Next Meeting**
* Monday 4th February 2019
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