St Ambrose High School Parent Council



Minutes of meeting 1st october 2018

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), E Warnock (EL), Paola Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), L McWhirter (PF), M Corns (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), R Blair (SL)

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer** |  |
| 1. **Apologies**  * M Smith (EL) and M McQuade (SL) apologies noted |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**  * Clerk confirmed that seatbelts are fitted on all buses as per North Lanarkshire’s Policy and also telephoned Bus Companies to confirm. Mrs MacPhail will contact parent who questioned this and confirm these findings**.** |  |
| 1. **Elected Members Confirmed**  * All elected members confirmed their position and official form will be sent to NLC | Sharon will email Maureen Moore at NLC |
| 1. **Nurture Room Visit**  * All at meeting were taken to St Ambrose High Nurture Room for a look at the room and to see what takes place there. General consensus of group seemed to like the layout and feel of the room. Some members noted that a jar of Nutella was on the shelf and perhaps we should remove this due to children’s allergies. | Mrs Douglas will talk with PEF team regarding foods in nurture room. |
| 1. **Nurture Classroom Visit**  * Next the group visited one of our Nurture Classrooms. All staff at St Ambrose are encouraged to create a nurturing environment for pupils. Group members chatted among themselves in this classroom but again the general consensus of the group was that the room felt positive and encouraging with the many quotes and information signs within the room. Mrs Douglas added that she encouraged staff to have a tidy room and make time for this. | Sharon will send a survey to group regarding feedback on both Nurture Room and Nurture Classroom. |
| 1. **Communication to Parents**  * Parent Council Twitter page launched with Chair and Vice Chairperson taking full administration control of tweets. Copy of policy regarding what is acceptable will be sent to group. Parents, staff and pupils should be encouraged to retweet. * Clerk demonstrated new menus on St Ambrose High Website. The group agreed the opening section of the parent council could be revised as it is dated. Parent Council section now contains 3 new menus. Meeting Dates, Menus and Minutes. Any posts to the website feed directly to St Ambrose High Twitter and also the School App. Website is mainly used for information pertaining to the whole school whereas the School App can be tailored for your individual needs and St Ambrose Twitter shows all tweets that have been retweeted from department twitter accounts. Chairperson enquired if items could be added to this section and both Mrs Douglas and Mrs MacPhail said yes. * Mrs MacPhail spoke about School App and how parents should be encouraged to tailor it to their individual needs by selecting only the year group their child is in etc. | Sharon to send Parent Council Twitter policy.  Sharon will develop opening tab of Parent Council on website. |
| 1. **A.O.C.B**  * Chairperson sent letter to Mr McKinstry regarding the repair of the electronic gates. * Letter regarding pupils Pupil Support Teacher has been received by parents and included in this is the pupils appropriate Depute Head Teacher * Clerk removed statement in minutes referring to “parents ignoring SMT in car park” although Elected member did note that she was amazed at the carnage that SMT have to manage as she sees this first hand. Mrs Douglas mentioned that the wearing of the High Vis Jackets have helped in keeping order. * Chairperson has booked with Maureen Moore onto Training Course * Mrs Douglas and Mr McGinley have been trying to organise the social area and continue to look at ways of using the space and time more efficient. * Early Indicators for SQA will be detailed in a presentation to P.T’s and will be included in November Agenda. * ICON will be passed to North Lanarkshire later this month. * Assessments – Mrs Douglas confirmed we will be continuing with assessment base progress so we have fall back. Highers have changed shape and unit assessments have not. SQA alerts are coming through. Exams are a month earlier. SQA Exam timetable is on SQA website. Last year pupils must have had all unit assessments passed and sat exam to get a course award whereas now unit assessments are not part of the compulsory course award specification. Group noted that the feeling is that education is reverting back and not having unit assessments gave them more time for applying themselves to the subject and taking away the stresses of having to prepare for unit assessments helped. SL noted that unit assessments sat last year will still be on their certificate. * S4 Prelims are in December and Saturday Study classes will be introduced. SL mentioned that Saturday classes helped. * Homework – mixed opinions on homework. Opinions noted that homework for Maths welcome, homework given in Junior years helps when it comes to exam studying. Some noted that especially the younger pupils need notice of homework - deadlines to be 2 to 3 days in advance but did not have diaries to mark this in. Mixed opinions on diaries not being available. Mrs Douglas explained that North Lanarkshire were announcing the parent portal and this is why we didn’t provide diaries but the portal has not happened. The school has purchased diaries and are available to buy from the office for the sum of £1. We as a school are on the verge of providing electronic homework with Spanish, Science and Maths having practice sheets online. Some members admitted their child buying diaries but didn’t write in them. SL said she preferred the diary to the planner. Mrs Douglas said a few departments were forging ahead with GLOW. Next meeting we will catch up with curriculum. * 12 students have all arrived. 11 of the students are females and this is seemingly a trend in Secondary’s. Our Saudi Arabian visitor is here for 6 weeks and will be working in and around the school. * Sponsored Walk day is coming up and Senior school will be busy too as former pupils are invited in to help with UCAS statements as they are fresh to the importance of personal statement importance. Brooke Longmuir will also be working with S5. S6 will be split into 3 groups – entrepreneur, New College Lanarkshire and UCAS. SL noted she is going to New College Lanarkshire to work towards R.E teaching. * Emergency Evacuation will happen before October Week as last planned evacuation had to be cancelled due to weather warnings. * Mrs Warnock and Mrs Hamill announced they would be taking part in outside sleepover in aid of the homeless. Mrs Douglas said school would donate £100 to their charity. * Antoinette spoke about community helping with chores and groups in the parish along with the caritas group. * Mrs Douglas informed the group that A Smith would be leading the Caritas group. | Sharon to include SQA early indicators onto November Agenda.  Sharon to organise cheque for charity  Sharon to put on website for volunteers to contact St Augustines |
| 1. **Next Meeting**   Date of next meeting is Monday 12th November 2018 |  |