St Ambrose High School Parent Council



Minutes of meeting Monday 4th March 2019

**Key – EM = 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 (EM), P Doran (EM), K Hamill (EM), K McGhie (EM), J Gilmour (EM), E Warnock (EM), P Madau (EM), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), J Kinnear (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), A Simpson (TS),

F Weir (TS), Megan McQuade (SL)

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**
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| 1. **Apologies**
* Michelle Smith (EM), Marion Corns (PF), Rachel Blair (SL)
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| 1. **Correspondence**
* Criteria Led Selection – members will confirm if they will attend.
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| 1. **Previous minutes address**
* Mrs Douglas addresses group regarding minutes. Appendix to February Meeting Minutes. Kate will add statement to the minutes. Section on Campus was considered to be brief. These are Parent Council Minutes and not School Minutes and there was an agreement that there is a degree of public interest. Minutes will be emailed in draft version to HT, DHT, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Once all 4 people agree minutes will be issued at meeting for elected members to agree also and at this point the minutes can be e-mailed to public etc.
* A meeting was held in the La Ronde Pub by members of the community regarding the water. Fulton MacGregor has reportedly written a letter to Cllr Logue. Kate has e-mailed Fulton MacGregor to ask what this is all about. The public were made aware of meeting through social media.
* New Gates have been installed and Mrs Douglas thanked Kate Robb for the correspondence to the Council.
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| 1. **SCES - Inclusion**
* Miss Smith (Depute Head) gave presentation that was given to Staff on the In-service Day. Presentation included ‘How we are inclusive in St Ambrose.’ We have an Inclusive Ethos – Dignity at all time in all areas of practice. We build on Christian Values going into the world. The times we live are not new and we identify with children of God. Moral relativeness is alive today is it was then. Discrimination should be avoided. Sexuality does not define a child when they are so much more and are a unique child of God and are loved. Times are changing but we must not change. We do this because we love – He loved us first. Group watched a video of Letitia Wright’s acceptance speech at the BAFTA’s. Kate said of Allison’s presentation that it made sense of it. Using the SCES material Father Kane will train staff and Miss Smith reiterated that Father will come. Reassuringly training will be given to generalist in teaching. Pupils will be given the opportunity to receive Ashes and we are aware that for some of the students the school is their parish. Mass will be celebrated every morning in the Assembly Hall.
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| 1. **Parents Survey**
* Members broke into groups to undertake the survey. Kate collected surveys and will collate results.
* Kate and Katrina attended the consultative group. Issues included should we be limiting subject choice. HT noted that this issue was raised 10 years ago. Pauline O’Neil spoke about companies on board.
* Megan our school leader mirrored what was said at the consultative group at their meeting. S6 pupils were split into groups with the focus on Mental illness. It is considered that S6 can talk freely as they are at the end of their school journey. The pupils noted that maybe School Leaders could go on training. The felt that work experience a couple of years ago concentrated on a particular week and this had been lost.
* Mental Health Issues – start to do something about it. NHS 24 launch a Mental Health Hub. Calls will have option when they call they can speak to Mental Health Practitioner. Huge strategies are not always needed and sometimes simple gestures like smiling etc. can and do help. Funding is being made available for Mental Health and issues with children in particular are not only social media but also technology. Mrs Douglas thanked Megan.
* Miss Smith informed group that we have secured a councillor in school on a Monday until June. Mental Health Day October 10th 2019 should be advertised on our social media and by Email etc. We should focus on issues that affect young people. Group member suggests giving teachers ability to fast track and Miss Smith noted that we are a pilot school for group LIAM (Low Intensity Anger Management). We are making use of this. Group member spoke of the stigma attached and should not be tolerated. Mrs MacPhail running with mental health issues in the peer education groups. Group member talked of how the suicide rates are high among young people. Maybe organised groups could come and talk to pupils.
 | Sharon to email YAMS. |
| 1. **Report from HT**
* Timing of Easter this year is not the best with Spring Break and then back a few days and then Easter Weekend. Plea to Parents to encourage Head down and Saturday Supported Study. Lenten Activities will continue but restricted charitable events will not be done in class time.
* Staffing – declaration of vacancy. Last Wednesday was a core supply meeting we had 4 attended. Only 1 is a confirmed place in this school. Interviews will be held tomorrow and will not necessarily secure a place in this school.
* Press and Social Media show cuts in local Authority with worrying news especially in Primaries for Janitorial Staff. NLC say there will be no redundancies but severance packages will be offered. Watch this space.
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| 1. **A.O.C.B**
* Training for a church representative. Minutes to be sent to parishes of feeder schools. Father Kane would like to come along to a meeting.
* 11th, 12th and 13th of June are school show dates.
 | Invitations to Parent Council |
| 1. **Date of Next Meeting**
* Monday 13th May 2019 at 6pm
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