St Ambrose High School Parent Council

Monday 3rd February 2020

Key – EL = Parent Council Elected Member, PF = Parent Forum, DHT = Depute Head Teacher, SL= School Leader, TR = Teaching Representative

Present: K Robb (Chairperson), M McQuade (Vice Chair), K McGhie (EL), P Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), K Smith (PF), P Doran (EL), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), F Weir, (TR), Z Ramage, A. Smith (DHT), Niamh Carroll (SL).

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**

**J MacPhail & Chair** |  |
| 1. **Apologies**  K Hamill & H Cunningham
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| **3. Previous Minutes Address*** Previous minutes agreed.
* HT thanked the Parent Council for the card and flowers sent on her recent bereavement.
* New twitter page working.
* Campus issues.
* Digital learning – parent portal trialled in no schools, we will roll out in March. One top place for timetables, IPAY, etc.
* Email sent to cluster HT about PC cluster.
* We would invite Barbara (SCES) along.
* Mr Fitzhenry post as R.E Principle Teacher.
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| 1. **Correspondence**
* K McDermott parking email – safer parking. Chair to give summary; 8:40 -9:05 another school has issued that no cars are allowed to allow time for buses to enter school drop off area.
* Parking issues in old school and here, they are simply different issues.
* Staff leaving at the bell creates more congestion at the end of the day.
* Combination of staff and pupils leaving at the same time. Parents use the parking at the skills academy, which brings more complaints to us.
 | Responses regarding parking from chair by 14th.  |
| 1. Campus
* Positive that SRG meetings are pushed back to March.
* Reports are taking a while to come back so the meetings being further apart helps when waiting on results.
* Drainage, 6 months to a year to complete.
* Mrs MacPhail directed a parent to SRG website for all the information she needed.
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| 1. **Health & Wellbeing**
* Different ways the school raises issue of health and wellbeing.
* A Smith to discuss - last October NLC launched Mental Health and Wellbeing book. She spoke of the contents page – heading.
* The need to support young people’s minds. Young people are supported, school councillor 2 days per week.
* Z Ramage works one-to-one with pupils
* Nurture is well established in the school and our young people are using the nurture room.
* This is part of our improvement plan
* Always room for improvement but we are well on the way
* Health and wellbeing champion’s day Zoe spoke – introduced herself – psychology teacher.
* Z Ramage gave group a task – give any positive or negative words that come to mind, 2 minutes to pop any words that come to mind around the word onto the sheet. (e.g. 1 group had mental illness)
* Zoe asked group members to give some of the words they have associated with mental illness
* A lot of similarities between mental health and mental illness
* When teaching physical health positive issues would be delivered, the same is applied to mental health. Strategies are given to help cope.
* Having it in the curriculum helps with getting rid of the stigma
* Mental illness is a medical problem
* Young people are not just the future they are the now.
* All S1 have this as part of curriculum, e.g. mental health arts clubs
* Senior phase SQA Mental Health and Wellbeing Award – pupils are definitely working at level six but SQA offer only level 5, they can choose this as an elective. Unit 1 – explaining terms of mental health, Unit 2 – factors affecting mental health, Unit 3 – helpful and unhelpful coping strategies. Pupils have spoken at events about developing this course.
* How to embed natural ways – one-to-one with Z Ramage, four-week access.
* Exam one-to-one, Z Ramage sees many pupils – maybe just once.
* Exam support group – finding ways to motivate, study skills, stress reduction.
* Group thanked Z Ramage.
* A Smith; really assuring that this is part of PSE curriculum also. A Smith went to class and they were watching Gayle Porter.
* Staff, role of A Smith in support, i.e. absence; getting support, making councillor info available, in-service day presentations.
* A Millar noted parents must be grateful of level of support provided.
* A Smith, work being done just now will help future generations become more resilient.
* J MacPhail, building from grass routes will help future generations be more resilient.
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| 1. **Perception and Confidence Levels**
* A Smith explained; evidence collected from different sources throughout Dec and Jan concerning general safety and campus issues. Pupil Voice and parent/carer voice. This included S1 & S2 feedback as well as feedback from S5&6 reporting evening and school roll analysis.
* 82 parental responses, 94% safe – positive results. S2 slightly smaller, but still a high percentage. To HMI, this would be ‘most pupils’.
* Positive response from all avenues regarding safety.
* Young people’s views were overall encouraging, pupils themselves felt safe. Very positive feedback from pupils. Comments shown to PC to read, samples form each year group. All made comment on blue water, but in a positive way regarding how school dealt with it,
* Analysis of school roll compared to other similar schools in NLC was also positive.
* All indicating confidence & perception very positive toward St Ambrose.
* A Millar commented the very positive opinions have been expressed in the local community also.
* K Robb commented positively on NLC auctioning of report findings.
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| 1. **Report from Head teacher**
* HT noted the staffing situation is poor, with long-term illness an issue.
* Commented positively on imminent arrival of new PT RE.
* INSET days mentioned, particularly the workload survey and the wellbeing timeslots for staff as well as first aid training.
* Noted also staffing issues in office, M. Millar post not been filled and another staff member absent. Office staff stretched.
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| 1. **Report from A Millar**
* Father Kane wants to meet with Mr Fitzhenry
* Full Lenten programme as usual.
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| 1. **AOCB**

Mrs MacPhail noted The new facilities manager had started.* K. Robb thanked all staff and teachers for support for all pupils.
* Mrs MacPhail called it partnership between parents and staff and commented on the importance of the pupils knowing support is there.
* Comment also, on how well other pupils conducted themselves entering school.
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| 1. **Date of Next Meeting:**

2nd March 2020 – mentioned PC clusters, parish rep and Barbara Cook.  |  |