St Ambrose High School Parent Council

Monday 6th March 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 Doran (EL), E Douglas (Head Teacher), R Wallace (EL), A Millar (CR), F Weir (TR).

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer** |  |
| 1. **Apologies**  P. McGowan, N Carroll, H Cunningham. |  |
| **3. Previous Minutes Address**   * Previous minutes agreed. * Cluster PC Meeting rearranged for May. * Discussion on Z Ramage completing further work * Perception and confidence - reiteration top 5%, most improved council. |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**   **N/A** |  |
| 5. Appointment of new HT   * K Robb discussed interview process. 4 interviews took place on Thursday, composed of 3 HTs and one depute. All strong candidates. PC involved and able to ask questions. * M. McQuade also commented that there were 4 capable candidates, and noted the difficult circumstances for the candidates. Added it would be difficult to follow on from E. Douglas. * A Millar, agreed and thanked Chair and Vice chair for representing PC. * It was also noted that SRG still ongoing. * E. Douglas will meet with new HT prior to August. |  |
| **6. Blended Learning**   * HT commented on use of St Ambrose as a HUB, noting how successful it had been, and mentioned the addition of a nursery in the community centre. * HUB now moving out of the school for the summer - which allow recovery work to progress. * Notes 8th June staff, with exception of those shielding allowed back into building. * The building has now been organised around 2m social distancing rules and timetable in 'cold storage' ready for possibility of further changes prior to August. * Noted John Swinney's comments on blending learning not to last any longer than absolutely necessary. * Attainment gap and time lost are very important issues which need to be addressed. * P. Doran commented on home learning and the difficulties associated with this, and acknowledged that teachers have been good at posting work. * K Robb also noted difficulties for children adapting to home learning. Leads to general discussion of home learning. * HT aware of young learners with no or limited access to facilities to enable home learning, the school had put equipment out to kids. * E. Douglas and A. Smith, managed to meet with all members of staff whether in person or virtually during June. * F Weir commented on the positives of returning and understanding H & S measures put in place in the building. * HT commented on ongoing risk assessment work. 3 different risk assessments had to be completed - for staff return, for transition and for pupils returning in August (this is ongoing and subject to change) * Teacher and support staff had been contacted through an online survey to see what concerns they might have and if they had any creative solutions. * Discussion of difficulties in practical subjects, eg. P.E, Art, DET and H.E * Staff have been working in the building the previous two weeks, the main concerns have been H & S and clearing clutter etc, from rooms. * All furniture has been turned around to ensure nothing for learners to touch in order to minimise contact. All with 2 metre rule in mind. * HT thanked school janitors for all their help. * HT noted discussion on blended learning and best use of staff - workload issues. * K Robb mentions difficulties within NHS and working and preparing for work in changing situation. No expectation of a 2nd spike. * HT outlines progress to opening doors to young people in August. Lots of work has been carried out at authority level. Schools will release information on Monday/Tuesday 22nd/23rd June. * Cannot at this point be specific about transport. * HT noted the need to consider the capacity of the building as well as considering how many staff will be available and how many pupils will be returning. * St Ambrose in a fortunate position, many teaching spaces able to fit 12 pupils in a standard classroom. . * If social distancing relaxes then more pupils in each room. * Pupils will need to enter and leave as well as receive meal time in a staggered manner. * Aim to deliver 40% to all young people and see each young person a minimum of once per week. * HT noted that working hard to ensure all learners receive subject specialists. * A. McDermott asked about new S1 and how they will be grouped - HT offered thinking behind this and the difficulties involved. S1 will initially be kept in primary groups to ensure there are people they know. Noted that it is important they do not see different faces each day. * HT discussed S4, 5&6 who will receive blocks of learning over 2 days. Over two days they would visit 6 columns. S4 would have to have double periods which they normally wouldn't. This face to face time to be used to consolidate assigned work and to make sure all has been understood, as well as preparing them for next lot of blended/online material. * Important to allow PTs the power to delegate and lead learning. * Discussion ensured regarding delivering teaching to S4,5&6 for exams and the potential to modify course content if the current situation persists. * SQA has announced the results process will go ahead as normal. * HT commented on hope of being able to utilise space in community centre, as well as hopes that bigger teaching groups being accommodated throughout the school for senior pupils. * Letters to parents / carers should be distributed before end of session . * All plans are subject to change. * HT commented on first few days back really to focus on welcoming pupils back, ensuring they are doing well in terms of a focus on physical and emotional wellbeing and ensuring they are familiar with the building. |  |
| **7. AOCB**   * P Madau asked about report cards. HT noted difficulties of this. Colleagues cannot access seemis from home. * HT also noted no calendar for next year yet. * K Robb thanked everyone for making the time on a Friday evening to join the meeting. * Best wishes and thanks to Dr Graham who has acted as clerk to the PC. * HT noted 2 members of staff (L Sullivan & G Dunbar) retiring. Both are wished a long, happy retirement. |  |
| **8. Date of Next Meeting:**  TBC |  |