St Ambrose High School Parent Council



Minutes of meeting Monday 4th February 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), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF),

L McWhirter (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), A Simpson (TS), F Weir (TS), R Blair (SL),

Alan Henry NLC, Chris Sullivan NLC

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer** |  |
| 1. **Apologies**  * Paola Madau, Michelle Smith, Ann McDermott, Megan McQuade |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**  * No correspondence |  |
| 1. **Previous minutes address** |  |
| 1. **Campus Issues**  * Alan Henry (NLC Education Officer and Chris Sullivan (Maintenance Improvement Manager) joined the meeting to address and answer questions relating to the blue water situation. Chris gave a detailed insight to what has been happening in St Ambrose about replacing pipes. He informed the group that the council were increasing the man-hours to speed up the process of replacing pipes and Mears would now be working in the school during the week in addition to the weekend work that has taken place. The council is aiming for completion or pipe work with exception of the main pipe by the middle of February. The summer holidays are planned for the main pipe work to be undertaken. NLC assured the group that the tolerance levels are within the hygiene and water levels, which need to be satisfactory. NLC are investigating the pipes and how this happened. Chris opened the forum to members * Mr Henry and Mr Sullivan thanked the group and left the group to continue with the meeting. |  |
| 1. **SCES**  * Our Chairperson spoke positively about the meeting they attended. Equality and Inclusion in Education. Schools work best when they work in partnership with parents. Lessons developed for use in Catholic Schools include belonging in our community etc. Booklets will be distributed to all parents when they are available in print. There is a need for this engagement between Parent and Staff. Mrs Douglas informed the group that the Staff In-service day Agenda in February included a talk to all staff. A Smith - Depute Head Teacher, J MacDonald – P.T. of Support for Learning, and A Simpson – P.T. PEF would present this talk on Nurture and Catholicity. The May In-service Day will included a talk to staff on Autism. Mrs Douglas feels it is right of the school to have equality. A Smith will be invited to talk to group at next meeting along with Father Kane. Ours schools encourage equality and inclusion and in St Ambrose, the language we use is positive to reinforce this. e.g., we refer to Accessibility toilets instead of previous labelling of disabled toilets. New roles of Parent Chair and Church Representative. We could amend our constitution. Our Chairperson advises group to have a look at the website. Google RSHP – Scotland and read levels 1-3. SCES main event is in September. * Mrs Douglas would like to note that we will come back to this and advises group to hear Barbara Coupar speak. | Mrs Douglas will invite Fr Kane.  Sharon send website to members |
| 1. **Mobile Phone Policy**  * TV shows reports of banning phones in schools etc. Mrs Douglas asks members starting with School Leader what do you think. SL replies that some teachers do encourage you to use your phone for school work whilst in class. Mrs Douglas informed the group that 7 phones in one S4 class were confiscated for misuse in class. Group suggested a reminder sent to parents that phones should be off and out of sight. Clerk informed group that office staff do have an issue with parents and pupils contacting each other regarding appointments and being sick but communicate neither with office or pupil support. This result in attendance being marked wrongly and importantly if an emergency happens then the information we have is not correct. Group members agreed that using them appropriately is acceptable and being able to contact their children and vice versa is positive thing as long as it is appropriate also. |  |
| 1. **Report from HT**  * Youngsters have been affected by staff absence. 5 members of staff absent meaning collapsing timetables to ensure young people are taught by specialists. We are running on a staff of 76.4FTE and in fact should be 90.1FTE. Core supply consists of year 1 being successful – permanent core supply and year 2 being reinterviewed if vacancy available in school. This person would be placed in the school as long as nobody else is entitled to be in that school. * SQA – change of levels is described as Mad March which starts in January. |  |
| 1. **A.O.C.B**  * Group member wished to express their thanks to the teachers on the recent Italy trip. |  |
| 1. **Date of Next Meeting**  * Monday 4th March 6pm |  |