St Ambrose High School Parent Council

AGM Monday 2nd September 2019

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 Chairperson), A Millar (Church Representative), S Harvey (Clerk), R Wallace (EL), K Hamill (EL), P Doran (K McGhie (EL), Paola Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), M Corns (PF), Karen Irvine (PF), Father Kane (Chaplain & Parish Priest), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), A Simpson (TR), F Weir (TR), Hannah Cunningham (SL), Niamh Carroll (SL), Karen Smith (PF), W Walker (guest speaker), E Noble, (guest speaker),

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**
* **Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed new parents and alike to the group.**
* **Chair opens the meeting with events over the summer. Vice Chair and Parent Council elected member met with John Swinney and both agreed the meeting went well with the minister giving assurances of everything needed being done. Chair noted the commitment of Mrs Douglas and others over the summer as testament to the school. Chair wished to thank Mrs Douglas and her team.**
* **Mrs Douglas noted that Chair and Vice Chair were stupendous as they were on holiday but still communicating with all involved. Mrs Douglas noted this as quite incredible and they have stood shoulder to shoulder with her.**
* **Chair addressed the Councillors apologies and acknowledged these as before there have been no replies aswell as no attendance.**
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| 1. **Apologies**
* **M Smith (EL), A Kerr (PF), C McKenna (PF), Councillors Elaine Ballantyne, Bill Shields, Jim Coleman and Alex McVey.**
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| 1. **Positive Relationships**
* **Two members of staff (guest speakers) gave a presentation on positive relationships. They spoke of ours schools mission statement of vision, values and relationships and how as a school we are good at these. They spoke of how to look again and reaffirm these within the school. Working with PEF and Behaviour Management looked at recent research and found pupils have much more complex needs. They also looked at the pupils who want to disappear. They looked at the reasons. They found that relationships were in decline because of some school sanctions. They used the quote ‘no significant learning takes place unless there is a significant relationship’. They spoke of the book ‘When the adults change – everything changes’ and how as a teacher you can control only your own behaviour. Portobello High was used as a test and both commented on how they thought that this was for us. They talked about the following:**

**Calm consistent adult behaviour****Visible consistency, visible kindness****Introduce meet and greet. Teachers should welcome every pupil individually into class.****Deliberate botherness. Show pupils that you are making the effort.****School rules should be there but not the first thing that pupils see and hear.****Be respectful to pupils and display the respectful poster in every classroom etc.****Showing and practicing consistency throughout the school will help for this to become second nature to staff and pupils and build on positive relationships and behaviour. Emma noted that she is already noticing in the corridors that staff are meeting pupils at the door and staying there until the last one is in.** **They spoke of writing this into Improvement Plan and staff are keen to get onboard to keep this going.****Our Chair comments on how exciting this is and that her sons primary use this and it is very successful.** |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**
* **Fulton MacGregor recognises St Ambrose in Parliament.**
* **Insurance certificate.**
* **Thank you card from Mrs E Warnock.**
* **Training schedule from North Lanarkshire**
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| 1. **Previous minutes address**
* **Work on school campus throughout summer and continues.**
* **Mrs Denton gives an update on work including Balfour Beattie maintenance of the tarmac has been extensive this summer, pipes being replaced with plastic piping, painting of a school is usually every 8 years but NLC have carried this out early due to the work being carried out. Since the summer 2 water coolers have been replaced. We had a report of mushrooms and this was due to a leak and after the wet and hot weather they appeared. Reminder issued to staff to use the green fault forms. Issue of guttering getting filled with leaves and not being reported and this is some cases led to dampness occurring. Area has been treated and carpets renewed. Chair notes that the picture that was taken was then given to Scottish Hazards and finds this frustrating. She has written to Scottish Hazzards as she feels that the slightest thing is being reported on social media. The number to contact the group is being used but no reply is given. She feels the content of the report is not good. HT acknowledges and appreciates the chairs efforts. HT asks the group if they have been receiving the updates as Mrs Douglas is urging for complete transparency and wishes the parents etc to know what is happening.**
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| 1. **Campus**
* **Stephen Penman from NLC contacted the chair about the Site Recovery Group. Chair and Vice Chair have been invited to join the group. The group meeting is scheduled for 10th September 2019 at 5pm. Chair will feed back to the group. HT is assured that the group is a broad based group and will work at looking forward. Rebuild confidence and rebuild the schools reputation are the seeds of recovery. Father Kane asked for clarification on member quota and stipulation for site recovery group. Chair asks how long will this group exist. John Swinney has said the group will exist for however long it is needed. Member asks about the Parent Action Group. Is it parents who spearheaded the social media and are they involved in the independent review and do they have children at the school? Other members agreed as they were also confused about the Parent Action Group.**
* **The group spoke about the public meeting held in June and how this meeting was organised by Fulton MacGregor. Dr David Cromie who gave his professional view on matters said it was the worst public meeting he had attended. Chair spoke of inviting Dr Cromie and Derek Brown to a parent council meeting. Group acknowledged NLC admittance on lessons to be learned and how well balanced their approach was.**
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| 1. **Parent Council Membership**
* **Any parent wishing to join to give names to clerk**
* **NLC have not as yet posted this years’ official Parent Council registration form on circulars.**
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| 1. **Report from Head Teacher**
* **We have recorded 1300 pupils as an intake and this is a drop on our predictive roll. The drop is from P7 to S1 and we have taken into considerations these parents did not know us or the school. Our staffing roll is dictated by the intake roll and staffing was planned on the predictive roll. HT will join in the proactive measures by joining staff who will be visiting the Primaries. Parent who is from Airdrie explained the group that the feeling towards the school is good and the staff genuinely care about what happens with the pupils. Most people want to see the school do well. HT acknowledges parents comments and is appreciative of them.**
* **SQA results received August**
* **Senior Awards Ceremony takes place September 10th.**
* **Cost of the school day – part of the Improvement Plan.**
* **A Simpson spoke of the big Scottish Breakfast on Friday. Raising awareness of children coming to school without breakfast. She spoke of how much a weekly shop costs and making pupils aware of costs of lunches etc. School Leaders will help with the big breakfast on Friday periods 3 and 4.**
* **The Caritas group are introducing a recycle your prom dress. Group discusses that St Augustines recycle communion dresses and we could recycle many things. e.g. Ski Wear etc.**
* **The school will cease to ask pupils to pay for curricular activities but we do need to think of ways to pay for these.**
* **Mrs Denton retires this month. She is however on the supply list as we still need her experience so hopefully we will be seeing her soon.**
* **Mrs Welsh has taken the 0.4 Vacancy and will now head SQA and Data Analysis.**
* **Mrs Douglas hands over to Chair as she requested Mrs Denton be at the meeting tonight. Chair presents a gift and flowers to Mrs Denton and thanked her for going above and beyond in her role. Mrs Denton thanked the group and gave a small speech.**
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| 1. **A.O.C.B**
* **Visitors from Bangalore will be in school and will attend a Ceilidh on Wednesday evening. Pupils, Parents and staff will attend. Our visitors will attend the Senior Awards Ceremony.**
* **Clerk to the parent council resigns and is presented with flowers from Chair.**
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| 1. **Date of next meeting**
* **Monday 7th October 2019**
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