St Ambrose High School Parent Council

Monday 4th November 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 Chair), A Millar (Church Representative), N Graham (Clerk), R Wallace (EL), K McGhie (EL), Paola Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), F Weir, (TR), Hannah Cunningham (SL), Niamh Carroll (SL).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**
 |  |
| 1. **Apologies** A. Simpson, P. Doran, M. Corns, A. McDermott.
 |  |
| 1. **Previous Minutes Address**

Agreed on previous minutes. |  |
| 1. **Correspondence**
* NLC Training on Parent Council information distributed. This takes place on Tuesday 12th November, at Coatbridge High School.
* Letter inviting school and pupils to take part in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in March 2020.
* Thank you card from Mrs Denton, thanking the council for support over the years and for the lovely retirement gift.
 | **Clerk noted this would be passed to music department.**  |
| 1. **Campus**
* HT updating parent council on campus situation, for example what work Mears staff were carrying out over the weekend.
* Very positive – noted discussion with former pupils.
* A Millar noted hearing very positive comments on the school in and around the Parish.
* Indicated a high level of support in the wider community for the school and indicates the good reputation of school.
* SRG was discussed; minutes of recent meeting had been distributed to members, some of whom had attended meeting.
* S6 leaders discussed SRG, mention made of the potential to create a student led website to update our young people on the work on the campus.
* S6 noted that the attitude of pupils towards campus is overall positive.
* Chair discussed SRG meeting, referring to ongoing work on gas membrane, air quality testing and drinking water checks, Chair noted these checks were robust.
 |  |
| 1. **School Attainment**
* J McPhail spoke on school attainment, providing some handout on discussion points for members and a demonstration of the ‘dashboard’ on the smartboard.
* Discussed school attainment, explain the attainment review.
	+ Noted there was investigation re. Attainments, SIMD, attendance. Noting attendance is very good; spoke also of how attendance and late coming is dealt with, and how the school strives to improve here.
	+ J.M also noted that the school has been making positive steps to close the gap relating to SIMD and attendance.
* Some good news stories commented on – particularly senior phase attendance.
* Discussion moved to exam results, with a breakdown given using the dashboard. J McPhail talked through the data and answered some questions from council regarding our comparison with other schools in NL.
* Council members had brief discussion regarding the units at National 5.
* J McPhail discussed what happens at school level once results are published, departmental meetings, senior team meetings etc.
* Again, the great range of options for senior phase pupils was noted and regarded very positively.
* J McPhail commented please with insight data, invited any questions – leavers destinations were discussed briefly, and BGE attainment also demonstrated.
 |  |
| 1. **Report from HT**
* Apologies from HT.
* Mrs McPhail noted the p.7 Information Evening that is to take place on Wednesday 6th November in the school in the style of a ‘Fresher’s Fayre’ – different departments having different stands.
* P.7 Visit – the first one to take place on Friday 8th November in a change to the p.7 transition programme.
 |  |
| 1. **Parish Information**
* A Millar noted that, Father Kane disappointed that R.E post remains vacant.
* Oratory changes were discussed
* Mention of the work of the Caritas students, in particular that there are involved in the changes to oratory, a communications group and the People’s Pantry.
* People Pantry will be open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
* Requested help from Caritas pupil in December with toy donations.
* Mrs McPhail noted school involvement in Pantry.
* November remembrance mass – potentially outdoors.
* Mention of encouraging S1 and S2 visits to promote Tuesday Mass.
 |  |
| 1. **AOCB**
* Mention made of NLC school super campus – concerns over Catholic education, and the ethos of Catholic schools.
* Thanks given for school and teachers offering supported study.
* Water sports trip is going ahead.
* School Christmas Fayre, Tuesday 26th November 6pm.
 |  |
| 1. **Date of Next Meeting Monday 2nd December**
 |  |
|  |  |