St Ambrose High School Parent Council

Monday 7TH October 2019

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

Present: K Robb (Chairperson), A Millar (Church Representative), N Graham (Clerk), R Wallace (EL), P Doran (EL) K McGhie (EL), Paola Madau (EL), P McGowan (PF), D Goldie (PF), A McDermott (PF), M Corns (PF), E Douglas (Head Teacher), J MacPhail (DHT), A Simpson (TR), Hannah Cunningham (SL), Niamh Carroll (SL), a Smith (DHT), Cameron Tonner (PF).

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| **Minutes** | **Action** |
| 1. **Prayer**
* **Everyone introduced himself or herself since there appeared to be new attendees.**
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| 1. **Apologies**
* **F Weir (TR), M McQuade (VC), K Hamill (EL).**
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| 1. **Previous Minutes Address**
* **All agreed on previous minutes**
* **NLC have not as yet posted this years’ official Parent Council registration form on circulars**
* **Discussion of Parent Council membership regarding elected members, constitution allows for two further elected members.**
* **Representation of year groups and primary schools discussed amongst elected members, agreed by all that the Parent Council comprised an even spread of feeder primary schools and year groups.**
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| 1. **Correspondence**
* N/A
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| 1. **Campus**
* **The first Site Recovery group meeting has taken place, elected members of the parent council received the minutes from this. School Leaders H. Cunningham and N. Carroll in attendance.**
* **Next Site Recovery Group meeting to take place on 22nd October, with a further 3 to take place prior to Christmas.**
* **HT agreed to raise the question of distribution of minutes from these meetings to non-elected members of parent council.**
* **School leaders discussed meeting; there was heated debate involving the Parent Action Group and expert opinion, which caused a degree of tension during the meeting. HT asked what raised tension, school leaders summarised that it appeared to parents feeling as though their concerns and views were not being adequately addressed.**
* **The manner in which the findings of the Site Recovery Group were fed back to wider school community was discussed with Facebook being suggested. It was agreed in Parent Council Meeting that the favoured way was via email. Importance of this being independent from NL was also agreed. HT mentioned possibility of some form of pupil led website, managed jointly between Buchanan High and St Ambrose – Council welcomed this positively.**
 | **HT will seek guidance in circulating minutes of SRG to staff.** |
| 1. **SAC/PEF Spending**
* **A. Smith discussed PEF spending, noting that consistency was key, and therefore the PEF money (£76,800) will be spent in a similar way to the previous year. Money will be spent on; nurture, breakfast club (which is v. busy and in progress of sourcing larger facilities for this), mentor experience, active school girls group, Martin Stewart (author visit), residential to Netherud House (previously Castlerig), parental engagement night (police, Solihull, literacy and positive relationships), SAC mentors and target support for numeracy and literacy. It was also noted that a school councillor would be available two days per week.**
* **Positive feedback regarding parental engagement evening, particularly regarding Solihull, and Mrs McConnell on literacy.**
* **Discussion regarding how to encourage greater levels of parental involvement, mention of providing snacks/food and a parent/child homework group.**
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| 1. **Report from Head Teacher**
* **HT noted the success of the activities so S5 pupils on the day of sponsored walk. Police Scotland and online safety and Father Kane’s Catholic Mindfulness being particularly popular with learners.**
* **S6 Caritas groups formed, potential retreated discussed.**
* **Oratory renovation on hold, but plans to make it more like a place of worship.**
* **Insight data mentioned (will be on agenda for next meeting) HT noted she was pleased with the figures.**
* **P.7 Transition – some changes to this from previous years, p.7 pupils to visit St Ambrose rather than teachers going to primary schools, gibing young learners a better chance to experience high school environment.**
* **1454 max capacity of school, current roll 1300. Discussion of increasing number of 6th years, and placing requests.**
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| 1. **A.O.C.B**
* **S6 School Lear H. Cunningham explained her work experience in Monklands hospital. Members agreed this sounded like an excellent experience.**
* **A. Smith discussed other work placements and opportunities.**
* **Potential for a Careers day which parents would be invited to discuss- noted that it was important for young peoples to understand the variety of jobs/occupations available.**
* **Questions raised regarding Water sports trip.**
* **Winter Leavers programme discussed.**
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| 1. **Date of next meeting**
* **Monday 4th November 2019**
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