

Sandwick JHS

Parent and Carer Council – 24 April 2024, 6pm

Present: Debbie Jamieson (chair), Jenny Welsh, Helen Kerr, Kathleen Robertson, Michelle Johnson, Eilidh Johnston (minutes), Heather Grieve, Sian Wild, Vaila Irvine, Katie Leask, Jasmin Tulloch, Ailis Tracy, Brodie Lawson, Sandra Petrie

Previous minutes: these were circulated by email, and approved.

Headteacher report from Helen Kerr

Staffing update

- Andrew Hunter is still recovering – Helen Kerr is in as Acting HT for the remainder of the term.
- ASN PT – Jennifer Munro remains absent from work. Sandra Petrie is well established in the school now.
- ASN Teacher – Clair Coghill is in 2 days a week now, this will increase to 3 days by the summer.
- ELC/OOSC support worker – Aleisha Riise is now in post.
- Mhairi Gifford leaves this Friday; recruitment to this post is underway – we have a preferred candidate and 2 reserves. We have a plan that is almost finalised for next Monday and will share this with parents this week.
- There are preferred candidates for Art and Maths.
- PE teacher is due to start on May 27th.
- Learning support worker vacancies have been filled.
- Jeanna Inkster has returned to her 3 day secondary music post.
- Learning support worker post – interviews completed with both 12hr permanent and 30hr temporary maternity cover filled. Both candidates expected to be in post by end of May.
- Play support worker post – interviews completed and post filled. Aimee Barclay started in post last week, 10hrs a week.
- Supervisory assistant post – interviewing next week.

Exams

- Study leave and SQA exams have begun.

External auditors visit

- Building security, information security and cash – there were no concerns, there will be follow-up questions and there are some minor action points but these are already being addressed.

Transition

- S4 transition to AHS and other destinations starting.
- P7-S1 transition. Colin Gilliespie and Jonathan visited Cunningsburgh and Dunrossness to meet pupils. Transition programme events shared including an Outdoor Adventure Day, Activities Day at school and 2 full transition days – letter shared with parents / carers.

Activities this term

- Family bulletin each week – will go out on a Friday afternoon for the week ahead.
- Bikeability for P6s
- African drumming P1-4
- Swim skills for some P6 and P7 pupils
- Swimming lessons later in term for P3 and up
- Da Voar Redd Up
- Generation Science visit on 10th May for P6 and P7
- Primary learner led event – Monday 6th May 2-4pm. Parents invited – detail to follow.
- Primary Fyanna – Wed 29th May 1.30pm Parents invited.
- Paris trip.
- Primary class day trips towards end of term
- Primary reports – sorry for delay. P1-4 out by the end of this week, P5-7 to follow next week.

Fundraising

- Have donated £1500 to school trip and those staying home, money given to Ms Lawson for glue sticks, Chinese food at S4 leavers event, end of term swimming, leavers hoodies. Only c.£1500 left in bank.
- Bigton Sunday Teas fundraiser scheduled for 2nd June 12-1600.

School roll / cluster schools

- Two current P7s have placing requests, but two other placing requests are in for students to come to Sandwick. Some pupils are coming from feeder primaries, so this is improvement on previous years.

Outdoor environment

- Planters looking bare – suggested masterclass or OOSC could work on this.
- No update on polytunnel – Jasmin Tulloch to provide update. Noted this was grant funded by community council, and important to progress improvements. Transport for salmon pipes to school still needs to be organised. Could be part of an application to windfarm funding if additional funds are needed.

AOB

Update from Sandra Petrie – re behaviour strategies and ASN. Most of her work has been with secondary so far, the aim is to get an overview and then get into primary classes a bit more. SP has been looking at behaviour in a reactive way, would like to work more proactively on positive relationship policy, referral system for secondary (for behaviour warnings and consistent escalation), a similar system for primary. This will help to collate information and help smooth running of school. There were questions about referral systems – SP explained that this will help to identify patterns of behaviour, work out where extra support is needed. For secondary there will be a quick email referral system to bring information together. Primary may need something different. Spoke positively about staff and pupils, will set up groups on behaviour, learning / teaching / assessment, parents group. Happy to be a point of contact if parents have questions.

Discussed dress code – school will issue messaging about appropriate clothing.

Query about P7 residential trip – there will be no residential trip this year but day trips will be arranged.

Head lice – advised that parents should contact school if this is an issue, and the school can put out generic information on checks and treatment as required.

Meeting closed at 1850.