

Crieff High School Parent Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on 08 June 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom 6.30 – 8.30pm

Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader, Jessica Murphy (JM) – Head Girl, Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Morven Harrower – Vice Chair, Billy Russell - Treasurer, Betsy Vielhaber – Secretary, Nina Stenhouse, Gillian Rose, Lindsay Lennie, Fiona Perry, Suzanne Harvey, Eve Kilgannon, Helen McCrorie, Lisa Barber, Fiona Wimpenny, Cathie McKay, Angela Logan, Andrew Philip

Apologies: Rian Harvey (Head boy), Clara Walker

1. Welcome and introductions

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Parent Council usually meets every few months in person but has moved to on-line meetings due to COVID19. Had smaller meeting on 18 May which worked well, so decided to have a larger meeting inviting all parents.

2. John Donnelly re-cap of May 18th meeting and updates

Action: Summer work: JD has asked teachers for optional extra reading and teaching materials for students for over the summer. Will have S1-S3 suggestions and S4-S6. Will include reading suggestions, on-line info, links to resources etc. This is being drafted now. **Action – material to be circulated to parents / pupils.**

Action: Laura Fraser was asked about input needed from Parent Council in developing school web site. Ongoing.

Update on Staffing: Ms. Steele leaving PE dept. Ms. Brown will replace her.

Issues discussed

CT mentioned that last time parents wondered about potential for more "real time / live teaching" e.g. a weekly live 'surgery' for pupils to seek help from teachers.

JD has mentioned this at principal teacher meetings. English and Drama will do live lessons from next week. Languages are already doing this well. Progress is being made but some subjects are harder to do. Science department is trying to do meet ups to discuss subjects. But only a few pupils have engaged. Noted that marking work is more difficult for maths and science due to use of symbols on keyboard etc and this is taking a lot of staff time. Parents noted that it is particularly hard for students to teach themselves Advanced Higher Maths and Sciences.

JD noted that the situation with live learning will change again in August as teachers will be split between teaching in campus and supporting online learning.

Parents asked about complexity of multiple ways for homework submission (e.g. email, Google classroom, ShowMyHomework). Can this be simplified?

JD - ShowMyhomework is the main platform but some teachers may then direct pupils to Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams for specific tasks, e.g. for collaborative work. Staff should always record the progression of the work on ShowMyHomework.

Parents raised issues where work is not always marked by teachers when submitted, and can look as if still outstanding (leading to parents chasing their children even when work is completed). **Action: JD to raise this at Principle Teacher meeting.**

Parents queried if homework should all be set on Mondays for whole week (some are still getting homework set mid-week which throws off the study schedules). **Action: JD asked for detail on this via email and will follow up.**

Action – Parents to let teacher or JD if problems arise from multiple platforms / submission of work / setting of work.

Parents asked whether there would be a full review of content covered in subjects during lockdown when pupils return in August. JD noted that it would be unusual to have a huge amount of review in August, so pupils need to stay on top of subjects now.

JD asked for parent views on any change in experience of teaching since last meeting:

- Teachers are being very helpful and quick to respond by email when students have a question.
- More recorded lessons, voiceovers on powerpoint lessons and some live classes have been helpful.
- Generally useful feedback and marking being provided on work set, although this could sometimes be clearer (especially if improvement is needed by pupils).

Action: JD will take this feedback to teachers.

Parents asked about consistency in provision of online teaching across PKC.

JD considers that most secondary schools are providing similar approach although some variation. Some schools are getting resistance from teachers and Unions to offer audio or video lessons. CHS trying to strike the right balance with staff about how to deliver the learning that works best for all. Parents supported the efforts being made.

Parents were appreciative of efforts to schedule year group assemblies. These help to ensure that pupils remain connected with school and classmates and help boost morals. The S5 one was not very effective (few pupils engaged) but S3 and S6 very well attended. Parents can learn about these on ShowMyHomework.

JD noted that "Slice of Success" is continuing to reward pupils for achievement, and this is being supported by Campbells Bakery with cake delivery. The school is also planning a virtual Awards Ceremony (scheduled for Tue 23 June).

3. Back to school plan

School life will feel very different in August. JD shared a presentation of the DRAFT plan, still under discussion with teachers etc. First point is safety in the campus, which is a huge issue to overcome.

Key principles:

1. Safety--for pupils, staff.

- Signage on hygiene
- PPE where needed, e.g. additional support teachers
- Face covering for transport to and from school
- Students must stay at school, even during lunch.
- Hand sanitiser at entrance and around school

- Doors and windows open for air flow
- Physical distancing: 2 meter whenever possible. For social times will have set outdoor areas.
- Longer lessons (daily 4 x double period lessons) to ensure less pupil movement around school.
- Food brought from home or Tayside Contracts might deliver to classroom

2. Wellbeing—regular checks with pupils.

3. Equality of Access---will review timetable on bi weekly basis

Looking at 2 days per week in school for each year group (and 3 days remote learning)

4. Equity-- identify any pupils who need to be in school more often, e.g. vulnerable, complex ASN, children of keyworkers, pattern of non-engagement with on-line learning

5. Attainment---S4 will have 7 subjects (plus core PE etc) covered over 2 days. S5/S6 will have 5 subjects over 2 days

6. Minimising transitions—pupils will stay outside until teachers collect them. Stay with class you were with until after break.

7. Utilising school resources-- maximize use of Campus (e.g. Tryst, library, gym halls, outdoors) to create more space.

8. Flexibility with staff and school needs--getting input from teachers about availability of each staff member (e.g. some may focus on online learning and others based more in Campus).

Issues raised:

- Parents were appreciative of the huge amount of effort already made to design the Plan and wanted to express gratitude to school staff for their flexibility and dedication.
- Noted that P7s will need more help with transition. JD: school will be working with Primary Schools to help them understand what is coming.
- Query on how timetable will work for S1-3 where they have more subjects. JD: will ensure all subjects are covered over a 2 week block and including online learning.
- How will PE be handled? Will Science and other subjects be focused on aspects that can't be done at home, e.g. experiments, technical? JD said they can handle PE. Particular focus on pupils working to national qualifications.
- Can teachers move around to minimize how much the students move? JD noted that some schools looking at this but this would disrupt relationship between existing classes and teachers and leave classes without supervision while teachers move.
- Will classes need to be split to meet social distancing rules? JD: possibly although use of some larger spaces like library and gym halls could reduce need for this.
- Will Campus be closed to public in this scenario? JD: Yes – will be for school use only.
- Will work all need to be submitted online to reduce handling of papers, jotters etc? JD: Yes – online submissions with deadlines set during in-school lessons. Parents felt this was an important message for those who have not engaged with online learning to clarify that this will be an ongoing requirement beyond August. **Action – JD to add this to other communications to parents.**
- Will lockers be used? JD: probably not. Pupils will carry what is needed for their 4 daily subjects.
- Toilet facilities: There will be 2 meter markings including for handwashing facilities. Hygiene-- there will be hand sanitiser in many places around the school.

JD: Stressed that above plan is all noted as draft and that there will be changes. For example if the social distancing rules change (e.g. from 2m to 1m) then more pupils can be fitted in.

Head Girl/Head Boy comment

JM expressed thanks for being part of the Parent Council meetings and having the opportunity to raise issues. She noted that the new Head Boy and Head Girl have been appointed and that they will be very glad to join Parent Council meetings. CT thanked parents Betsy, Morven and Fiona for helping with the Senior Prefect Team interviews.

4. Feedback from PKC Parent Chairs meeting

CT attended a recent virtual meeting with other PKC Parent Council chairs and Education Dept officials. All questions were captured and will be responded to on PKC website.

<https://sites.google.com/pk.glow.scot/pkcdigitalschoolshub/home>

PKC confirmed that additional cost of school transport, cleaning etc. will not come from individual school budgets. PKC had indicated that some schools may have P7 transition events in school during June. JD confirmed that for CHS this would be focused on any pupils who require additional support or are struggling to engage with online learning.

CT highlighted a forthcoming Connect online event on home learning with expert Dr Janet Goodall, 11 June (2 sessions). More useful info on resources available here: <https://connect.scot/news>

5. Night of Champions (Nick Keiller, Active Schools Coordinator)

CT noted that Nick had previously provided useful info on school and extra-curricular sport and this would be topic for longer discussion at a future meeting.

Nick outlined plans for Night of Champions (annual sports Awards – usually held at the Campus). This year planning a virtual event on 18 June from 12-8 pm. Will tweet award winners every 5 minutes. Will gather this all into a video for release on social media etc.

Action: if parents want more info or to get involved, please contact Nick

6. Date of next meeting

Further meeting scheduled for Mon 22nd June 6:30pm to hear updated plans before end of term. CT thanked JM (and Logos) for providing the Zoom link and technical support.

Action: JD will invite new HB/HG to next meeting for hand over.