

Crieff High School Parent Staff Partnership

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 29/10/18

Strathearn Community Campus at 6.30pm

Present: Lindsay Lennie (LL), John Donnelly, Campus Leader (JD), Scott Jewell (SJ), Aileen Turkinton (AT), Betsy Vielhaber (BV), Billy Russell (BR), Emily James (EJ), Calum Westbrook, Head Boy (CW – HB), Jennifer Thornton, Head Girl (JT – HG), Caroline Murphy (CM).

Apologies: Diane Porter, Cathy Tilbrook, Catriona Cunningham, Gillian Rose.

Welcome

LL, introduced herself, welcomed all to the meeting and gave apologies.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 20.08.18 were proposed by LL and seconded by BR.

Matters Arising

Staff vacancies: JD explained that the teacher vacancies still haven't been filled. LL and BR asked if other solutions had been thought about including staff sharing or electronic links. JD said that a variety of options were being investigated.

Correspondence

Certificate of Insurance from Connect

Guidelines for the role of Treasurer from Connect

Thank you card from Annette Newell

Email from Mrs Deeley thanking PSP for retirement gifts

LL recorded the PSPs appreciation for Annette Newell and Karen Whyte for the four years they had served chair and vice-chair on the PSP.

Finance Report

In DP's absence CM read out the accounts report she had produced. The account balance after expenditure is £2836.33. (See Accounts Report 29.10.18). SJ stated that the Night of Champions Bid money was no longer required.

Head Teacher's Report

LL welcomed Mr Donnelly to the school and his first PSP meeting and thanked him for coming along after only a week at school. JD stated that he's had an enjoyable week 1 meeting staff and pupils. His initial focus has been to encourage both staff and pupils to think about their individual and collective values, and challenged them to consider what they are aiming for. He has spent time welcoming

pupils at the beginning of the day, and going into classes. In the following weeks he plans to meet with Principal Teachers and class teachers. He plans to hold an open invite evening for parents mid-November.

PSP Constitution

LL distributed the Constitution from the school website to the committee. CM gave the constitution which Annette had given her. It was decided that this would be discussed further at a later meeting. LL would put together a draft for everyone to consider.

Improving Communication with Parents

LL suggested this be changed to “engagement” with parents – all agreed. She suggested this could be done by including items on the agenda which might attract more parents to attend/ initiating discussions about specific topics etc. The general consensus was that parents tend to have more contact/ involvement with school when their children are at Primary. LL asked what the best method of contact was. SJ explained that there are currently 578 pupils on the school role and there are only 14 without an email address following the last summer check. The school will send out emails at the request of the PSP to inform parent’s about meetings etc.

LL stated that the PSP now has a separate email address crieffhighpsp@gmail.com

BW stated that she was a new parent to the school and she stated that email is a good means of communication. She stated that she was surprised by how few parent’s came to meetings. She had come from a small international school and once or twice a semester they had open forums on specific topics eg “teenage brain”; “helping to get kids to switch off”; “helping children to fit in” etc.

The time of the meetings was also identified as a potential barrier – it was decided that it would be moved to 7pm.

CW – HB/ JT – HG were asked their opinion on communications. They both agreed that emails were best. They stated that the senior pupils used twitter. It was also suggested that the PSP committee could possibly set up a What’s App account to communicate.

PSP Involvement/support – future diary dates

LL asked what school events the PSP normally supported: CM stated Prize Giving, Transition, School Shows and the Christmas Concert – which will take place on Wednesday, 12th December. Members agreed to continue supporting these events. JD suggested that it would be good if provisional dates for future PSP meetings could be set. It was decided that the next three meetings would be on **Monday, December 3rd at 7pm; Monday, January 28th at 7pm and Monday, March 4th at 7pm.**

AOCB

Both LL and BR agreed that they would continue in the role of Chair and Vice-Chair for a year.

CM read out an email from a parent outlining concerns over mobile phone usage within the school. This was seconded by EJ. JD stated that he would look at the mobile phone policy. He was currently listening to the school community on the issues. In his view if used sensibly mobile phones were a really good resource but that they must be used for educational purposes and only if instructed by

the class teacher. After some discussion, during which CW and JT were asked for their views, LL agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the December meeting.

It was agreed that the fundraising strategy would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. LL said that it was important that the PSP look at what its commitments are and then create a strategy.