

Crieff High School Parent Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on 28 October 2019

Strathearn Community Campus at 7.00pm

Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader, Jessica Murphy (JM) – Head Girl, Rian Harvey (RH) – Head Boy, Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Morven Harrower (MH) – Vice Chair, Billy Russell (BR) - Treasurer, Betsy Vielhaber (BV) – Minutes Secretary. Bernadette Woodhouse (BW), Sheena Aitchison (SA) – Tayside Contracts

Emily James (EJ), Aileen Turkington (AT), Suzanne Harvey (SH), Nina Stenhouse (NH), Malcolm Logan (ML), Angela Logan (AL), Nicola Hart (NH), Emma McIntyre (EM), Gillian Rose (GR), Helen McCrorie (HM)

Apologies: Catriona Cunningham (Secretary), Diane Porter, Elinor Green, Councillors McColl, Donaldson, Brock

Item	Discussion	Points for Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome 	CT opened the meeting with welcome as new Chair of Parent Council. Explained the decision to change name of group to CHS Parent Council. Introduced committee members. Attendees were invited to join the committee to receive minutes early and suggest items for agendas. But parent are welcome just to come along and listen and participate.	AP: All to contact CT to be added to email list for committee members
2. Apologies	As noted above.	
3. Matters arising/ correspondence/previous minutes	The minutes from the AGM meeting held in September were approved. CT and JD noted there are no outstanding matters or correspondence.	
4. Treasurer's Report	Treasurers report is unchanged from the AGM. Due to the fact the Parent Council is not currently fundraising and has few transactions on the account, this subject will only be reported in future as and when needed.	
5. Head Teacher's Report	JD summarised key points in the Standards and Quality Report just completed for 2018/19. Copy attached. JD noted that each school must produce this report which will be published by P&K Council. Areas of focus on the report: <u>Attendance</u> : on par with rest of P&K	AP: Circulate reports.

	<p><u>Attainment:</u> marginal dip in attainment of 5 Nat 5 qualifications over the past 3 years. This suggests that the change of going to 6 subjects rather than 7 did not help attainment. However, rates for achieving 1 and 3 Highers have increased over the three years.</p> <p>Report provides school with focus on the area of improvement for 2019/2020. Summary appears in report.</p> <p>Rated as good school overall. JD stressed that the school has many changes in progress and proposals to continue improvement.</p> <p>Insight Attainment Report JD noted this is a tool to look at schools and help evaluate trends and compare performance.</p> <p>Adds up performance for whole school. For our information, the goal is to have CHS equal or above the grey bar (Virtual Comparator). JD noted that the planned change to add a 7th Nat 5 qualification should help increase S4 attainment points.</p> <p>Report suggests that middle 60% of students might require further focus to raise attainment. School will work to raise the attainment levels.</p> <p>Next year's S4s will have ability to take 7 Nat 5 qualifications. School is planning how to deliver this, including options for pupils who do not want to take 7 subjects and will have internship and other focused opportunities.</p> <p>In 2019/20, S4 pupils are being offered the chance to take an additional Nat 5 in Applied Mathematics.</p> <p>BGE---Broad General Education JD noted that David Macluskey, Acting PKC Quality Improvement Officer, has initiated a BGE Curriculum review across all PKC secondary schools. This will provide an overview of the personalisation and choice, wider achievement provision and opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. JD will report on findings at upcoming meeting, including the issue of narrowing subject choices at end of S1.</p>	<p>AP: JD to report on BGE review at next meeting</p>
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	<p>Reviewed staff departures and arrivals</p> <p>Parent / Carer Survey JD asked for the group's feedback about next survey. Questions 19 and 20 focus on Parent council CT suggested about having a more general question on communication between school and parents. AL suggested having an open comments box for general feedback. Group suggested amending question 19 to 'Are you aware of the CHS Parent Council and its role?'</p>	<p>AP: All to provide feedback on proposed questions ASAP</p>
<p>6. Update from Tayside Catering</p>	<p>In August 2020 Scottish Government will change rules about food in schools in response to health concerns. This will impact the Tayside Catering offerings and they want parents to be informed and help to ensure that pupils still choose to stay and eat on campus. Also outside choices are increasing. School lunches were down 10% last week (Aldi opened during break). Stressed the good things about using the Canteen. Easy payment with Parent Pay. Money on the card allows you to see what they choose. Parents asked if more detail could be provided. Speakers mentioned that parents can come any time to get more detail, and that they are working with Parent Pay to make this detail of what kids eat more available on line. Everyone agreed saying on campus means kids are safe and eating well. JD said the students are fed quickly (max wait time 9 minutes.)</p> <p><u>Highlights of coming changes:</u> Frequency of red and processed meat to reduce. Bread products will contain more fibre. Sweetened and baked products will be reduced and limited to under 10 grams of sugar Drinks: juices are going to be eliminated. Water and milkshakes (maybe) will be offered.</p> <p>Helping kids make healthy choices is idea behind these changes but they need support</p>	

	<p>of parents. Kids are choosing to go off site. When off site, often kids are making bad food choices.</p> <p>One parent asked about availability of salad. Confirmed salad items available for sandwiches at no extra charge.</p> <p>After school, these nutrition rules do not apply to food offered in campus. Query about whether student cards should be deactivated after school, but this would penalise those attending clubs.</p> <p>JM and RH suggested ideas to engage pupils, but these may be difficult to apply locally. Agreed that pupils / student council should help to further develop ideas with Tayside Catering.</p> <p>Asked parents for ideas: Can you do things to incentivise students to stay on campus? Can there be special menu days? Noted that Tayside Contracts Dundee sets a 4 week menu, but they will look at what can be done with this good idea. Also suggested could ask the stores to help and not sell sugary drinks at lunch. Another idea would be to have lunchtime activities that keep kids interested in staying on Campus.</p> <p>Parent education was suggested. Also participation in the Transition day with new students. If people have ideas, please contact the catering group.</p>	
<p>7. Head Boy/Head Girl Report</p>	<p>CT explained that there will be a regular slot on each agenda for the Head Girl and Boy to raise any issues.</p> <p>JM and RH thanked the committee. Main focus would be on supporting mental health in school. Ideas included support from external charities like SAMH, Samaritans speaking at Assemblies, etc</p> <p>Noting that only 53% of pupils are comfortable speaking to a teacher or adult, they are keen to build relationships between student leaders and younger pupils.</p>	

	<p>Parents agreed that the idea of outside speakers at assemblies would be good and that parents may wish to attend.</p> <p>Other ideas Head Girl and Boy are looking into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with older Crieff residents (e.g. visits to care homes and opportunities for inter-generational learning) • Pupil councils (Junior and Senior) • First aid training • Drop in sessions with S1s to see how they are settling in • S6s volunteer in S1 classes currently. Parent suggested to have a buddy system 	
8. Ideas for future meetings	<p>Homework (how to develop study skills, etc)</p> <p>Communication (feedback on current approach, use of social media, website, etc). It was noted that the school website requires updating and development.</p>	<p>AP: GR to help school with website development</p>
9. AOCB	<p>S3 mock exams – parents requested clarity on the aim of these (JD explained that these are generally practice for SQA exams although can be linked to course choice. He agreed this could be clarified). Concerns were also raised about late appearance of exam timetable and schedule meaning that some students have several exams in a day. School calendar on website does not list the exams. JD apologised for any confusion and agreed to look into this.</p> <p>JD noted that school is preparing an SQA assessment schedule to list the dates when assignments and assessments take place, allowing students and parents to plan ahead - will be circulated soon</p> <p>HM asked about pupils being given homework with an expectation for printing booklets at home. JD said this should not be taking place and agreed to investigate further.</p> <p>Media report on high cost of CHS home economics charges was raised. This is already being reviewed and will be reduced. Various ideas were proposed to help (support from local food suppliers, donation from Parent Council, etc)</p>	

	Privacy during Parents Nights was also raised (prefer use of classrooms rather than open foyer areas). JD confirmed that views will be requested during the forthcoming S2 parents night.	
10. Date of next meeting	Mon 20 January 2020	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.