

# Crieff High School Parent Council

**Draft minutes of AGM and meeting held on 28 September 2020**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom 6.30pm**

**Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader, Lily Cannon (LC) – Head Girl, Rooney Kilgannon (RK) Head Boy, Nick Keiller (NK) Active Schools**

**Committee: Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Morven Harrower (MH) – Vice Chair, Billy Russell (BR) - Treasurer, Betsy Vielhaber, Secretary (BV), Catriona Cunningham (CC), Aileen Turkington (AT), Emily James (EJ)**

**Murdo Campbell (MC), Gillian Rose (GR), Maire Claire Fisher (MF), Alison Ritchie (AR), Fiona Perry (FP), Rebecca Mackie (RM), Helen McCrorie (HM)**

**Apologies: Lindsay Lennie**

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

CT welcomed all attendees and explained Zoom meeting etiquette.

## **2. Previous AGM minutes (16/9/19)**

Reviewed AGM meeting notes from last year. Minutes approved (FP) and seconded (CC)

## **3. Chairperson report (attached)**

CT provided an overview of the year and ended with thanks to the committee and to school staff.

**Action 1: BV to follow up with school on organising payment for ‘Scone Friday’ and arrange a card for parents to sign, to thank staff for their dedication during the Covid crisis.**

## **4. Treasurer Report (attached)**

BR confirmed that there had been very few transactions in the past year and that getting bank details transferred to the new committee was a long process.

### Ideas for future spend

**Technology:** Parents queried if school has enough laptops, especially to support learners if we need to revert to home / online learning again. JD confirmed that laptops have recently been purchased by various departments, plus PKC is funding more. In total. CHS has around 100 laptops available and considers that this is sufficient.

**Hardship:** Parents wondered if there was more the Parent Council could do to support pupils suffering hardship. Provision of school uniforms was mentioned, but JD confirmed that the school has a stock of spare uniforms. Also, the new Crieff Connexions shop is offering second hand uniforms. All agreed that Parent Council could help promote this to parents (both to donate used uniforms and as an opportunity to obtain these if needed. JD

also mentioned a new breakfast club running in school. Current funds will not allow this to continue for much longer. Costings are being established. All considered that supporting the club would be a good idea.

**Action 2: JD to provide costings for continuing breakfast club to the Committee for consideration.**

**Action 3: FP to check details for Crieff Connexions to help promote the school uniform promotion.**

Zoom licence: It was agreed that the Parent Council should obtain its own Zoom licence for future meetings. Although CHS uses Microsoft Teams, there would be problems using this system for Parent Council meetings.

**Action 4: CT to arrange Zoom licence**

Website: There may be costs associated with the CHS website upgrade, which would be helpful for Parent Council to support. Agreed to set aside around £100 for this.

**Action 5: CT and GR to continue to work with school on website development options and costs.**

Digital skills training for parents: it was agreed that this would be useful but JD felt it could be delivered by school staff so would not require any budget.

**Action 6: JD to investigate scope for digital skills training**

## **5. Election of office bearers**

CT noted that all officers are willing to continue for next year, or to stand down if anyone was keen to take on an official role. Also encouraged others to consider joining the committee, noting that it is not a huge commitment, but important for the school.

Elections:

Chair: Cathy Tilbrook (Proposed by FP and seconded by MH).

Vice Chair: Morven Harrower (Proposed by CT and seconded by CC).

Secretary: Betsy Vielhaber (Proposed by BR and seconded by MH).

Treasurer: Billy Russell (Proposed by FP and seconded by AR).

Rebecca Mackie and Helen McCrorie volunteered to join as committee members and this was gratefully accepted.

General committee members Catriona Cunningham, Aileen Turkington, Emily James, Helen McCrorie, Rebecca Mackie.

CT thanked all of these parents for agreeing to serve on the committee for the coming year.

At this point, the 2019-20 AGM was concluded, and a regular Parent Council meeting continued.

## **6. Headteacher update (attached)**

Key points emerging:

CHS attendance has been at our near 91% target, despite a short dip (seen nationally where pupils had seasonal illnesses or symptoms). Generally, pupils have not had apprehension

seen in other schools. Credit to guidance teachers for helping with reassurance and contacting any persistently absent pupils. Other positive signals were confidence of staff in the Covid measures in school (compared to national rates) and rates of staff absence (where cover is needed for classes) which are reduced on previous years.

Parents noted that current measures include leaving windows open for ventilation but that this will get more difficult in winter. JD agreed and suggested that this will be kept under review in line with updated SG guidance. It may be possible to open internal doors instead of external windows.

### **7. S1/S2 subject choices**

JD presented a series of tables from a PKC Broad General Education Curriculum Review (led by David McCluskey – currently on secondment from CHS). This highlights that whilst CHS offers a larger range of subjects in S1 than any other PKC secondary school, in S2, CHS pupils drop to just 9 subjects (lowest in PKC area and compared to up to 18 in one other school). In S3, there is much more consistency across all PKC schools.

CT welcomed the comparison tables as the Parent Council (and wider parent body) have been concerned about this issue for several years since the change was made to narrow down subject choices at the end of S1. In discussion, there was a general agreement amongst those parents attending that this choice is too early for pupils and may limit their later options. LC noted that in retrospect, she wished she could have chosen subjects later, but RK welcomed the chance to focus on subjects he enjoyed at an early stage (and some parents suggested their children would agree with this position).

It was suggested that further consideration was needed on this and a new parent / pupil / staff survey might be useful. Kerry Telford (Deputy HT for school improvement) would take this forward.

**Action 7: JD to check if Kerry Telford can attend next meeting to discuss this topic.**

### **8. Active School update on lunchtime and after school sport**

Nick Keiller gave update on current situation. He is still home working and has limited capacity but attends CHS on Wednesdays to support the Sports Leader course. After October holidays, a slimmed down version of the sports extra-curricular activities will be offered (all outdoors). Activities offered were based on an S1-3 pupil survey - football (girls), netball, hockey, rugby and tennis.

Discussion:

- Why only girls' football? (Answer - survey suggested there was not much demand for boys football, due to other local opportunities)
- Are lunchtime clubs possible? (Answer – not yet, but this will be kept under review. Watch the Active Schools social media updates for more info)

Many parents commented that their children had missed after-school sport, so were delighted this was returning. JD commented that he is really impressed with the PE teaching team and Active Schools for managing to arrange these clubs - much more than other

schools are currently offering. CT thanked Nick Keiller for the update and all his hard work to support school sport.

Other school activities:

- RK asked if non-sport lunchtime clubs are permitted. JD answered that they are if Covid cleaning is carried out afterwards.
- Question about access to the library for pupils. JD confirmed that this will be possible very soon (teachers will take students down and borrowing books will be possible).
- Question about music groups and tuition for wind and singing. JD confirmed that these activities are still not possible but some music tuition is happening (strings, percussion, piano etc) and that CHS has music instructors in the school every day.

### **9. Head boy/Head Girl update**

LC noted activities/projects so far. The senior prefect team has discussed what they can do to help build pupil morale, and a series of events is being planned, starting with a 'dress-down Friday' this week, with funds to the selected charities for each House ( Barvick - Autism Support; Turret – PKAVS; Kelty – SAMH). Other ideas include a quiz and orienteering.

RK explained that an Oasis room has been created for S1 pupils. The S6 pupils are there to meet and help the younger pupils.

### **10. AOB**

GR asked about the timing of N5 and Higher prelims, and rumour that Nat 5 exams could be cancelled again in 2021. JD confirmed that SG will make an announcement on 6 October but it was possible that Nat 5 qualifications would again be based on teacher grades whereas more likely that Highers / Advanced Highers would be exams.

JD explained that because current S5 and S6 pupils started their Higher / Advanced Higher courses earlier than usual during lockdown, they were felt to be ahead of usual progress, whereas current S4 pupils studying Nat 5 might be slightly behind. For this reason, school is considering switching prelims this year so that Higher prelims could be before the Christmas holidays and Nat 5 prelims after holidays – currently consulting with teachers. If Nat 5 exams are cancelled then may not have prelim but focus on assessment work. Parents expressed some concern if Higher/ Adv Higher prelims are brought forward without much notice and without full course being covered. JD said that some subjects might schedule 2 prelims at different times to ensure full course is covered. A communication on all this will be sent to parents as soon as possible.

**Action 8: JD to notify parents on confirmed plans for prelim exams.**

JD reminded parents about the study sessions running after school this week (and earlier) to allow pupils to catch up on any topics where they need support. Parents felt these were really useful and thanked staff for providing this extra help. JD confirmed that more of these sessions would be scheduled in the next term.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 October, 6.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8:16pm.