

Crieff High School Parent Council

Minutes

Thursday 1 Sept 2022

Via Zoom at 6.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Cathy Tilbrook (Chair); Clara Walker (Secretary); ~~Billy Russell (Treasurer)~~, John Donnelly (Head Teacher); Morag Fotheringham (Deputy Head Teacher); Lana Prince (Deputy Head Teacher); Gemma Langel (Head Girl); Ben Knox (Head Boy) Fiona Perry; ~~Billy Russell~~, Marta Perez; Julia Campbell; Louise McLaren; ~~Lana Prince~~; Emily Greaves; Nina Stenhouse; Suzanne Blaire; Catriona Cunningham; Helen Mccrorie; ~~Ben (Head Boy)~~ Aileen Turkington

Apologies: Morven Harrower; Rebecca Mackie; Betsy Vielhaber; Sarah Moore

2. Headteacher's update

See attached paper

John Donnelly provider verbal update on SQA exam results. Trends are positive, considering disruption over past few years. Need to focus on S4 pupils attaining at least 5 qualifications.

Questions: CT asked how CHS compares to other schools in the area.

JD provided some context but suggested that comparisons could not be made at this stage.

Staffing: JD provided an overview –

Principal Teacher of English – currently being re-recruited.

Principal Teacher of Guidance – Alison Walker

Intensive Support Provision – currently being recruited.

Drama Teacher – currently being recruited – some part-time coverage in place.

Pupil Support – Claire Forgan P/T

JD provided update on developing recruitment process to make the roles as attractive as possible. Increased flexibility and 18 month timeframes for the roles have been applied.

Other points of note:

15th Sept UCAS parent's evening.

S1 and S4 – 30th Sept – target setting along with distribution of progress reports to parents.

CT asked about recruitment of Principal Teacher of English and the delay causing issues, particularly for students doing Higher or Advanced Higher.

JD proposed that there would be cover from within the existing staff compliment.

JD is hopeful that recruitment will be successful.

FP asked about consistency of staffing when there is such a high turnover of staff and the impact that was having on students.

CC asked about whether there was anything that the parent body could do to help support the more long term support for recruitment in CHS.

JD said P&KC were aware of the situation and were providing support. He hoped that the approach being taken to recruitment would overcome some of the issues around consistency in terms of teaching. This would be reviewed at future meetings.

3. **Anti-Bullying Policy** – Fiona Perry represents the Parent Council on the working group and provided an overview of progress to date.

Example policies are being looked at now by the group.

Reviewing focus groups and surveys to understand what parents, students and teachers are looking for.

Proposal being suggested is one that would see a similar approach to the process developed for the mobile phone policy.

If any parents/carers have any suggestions that they would like to include please pass on to the group via clara.ann.walker@gmail.com

Morag Fotheringham gave an overview of what is happening internally within the school and externally in terms of peer review. The aim is to launch the new policy during Anti-Bullying week in November, with further staff training during in-service days.

JD noted that all young people in Scotland were asked to fill out a Health & Wellbeing census and the results will also help provide insight into bullying.

JD said that from this, CHS has the highest % of pupils who feel they can report bullying within the school and there was a positive culture when pupils did report the issue.

CC suggested that she was still concerned there was a low level toxic culture within the school. She is worried that the policy won't address these low lying issues.

MF responded to say that there will be some additional planning and training, including mentoring and specific equality, diversity and inclusion training sessions for staff and pupils.

CT suggested that the overall school community, including the parent body, could receive additional training and information.

SB asked about the title of the policy and making sure it is fully representative of all unacceptable behaviour.

CW asked for this to be a regular item on the PC agenda – policy into practice.

JD noted the quick adoption and acceptance of the mobile phone policy and the hope this is applied to the ABP.

Action 1: MF to report an update on Anti-Bullying Policy to next meeting and CT to table standing agenda item on implementation of the policy and wider wellbeing issues.

4. Curriculum review update – Lana Prince

LP gave a summary of what is planned and the process to be followed in CHS to develop the curriculum offer in the school.

Learning visits with staff have started and have been welcomed.

Focus will be on things like digital skills; learners leading learning.

Greater emphasis on the school – college partnership, including service design – home economics was given as an example.

School Improvement Group is working on this.

Working on homework and building a policy around homework, especially informing parents about homework and homework expectations.

New developments internally include Principal Teacher meetings to develop the curriculum.

CC asked if there were links with Higher Education as well as Further Education.

LP - Yes – Open University courses can also be accessed.

HMc asked about provisions of places for school pupils who might suffer during the cost of living / energy crisis to study / complete homework after school ~~who might suffer during the cost of living crisis and places to study.~~

LP answered that yes the school had been looking at this.

CC asked about homework – parents used to be able to see what homework pupils had been given. Is this going to be revisited?

LP said that this was in planning phase and faculties were being asked to post homework on to their TEAMS but it was acknowledged this was not currently consistent.

CT noted the S1/S2 subject choice change – had there been any change with this?

LP was looking at this but felt there was more consultation needing done.

The PC noted their disappointment with the time this was taking.

JD highlighted that the consultation would be completed by Dec to allow for changes to be made next year.

5. Head Boy and Head Girl Update

Ben and Gemma provided an overview of priorities for the Senior Pupil Leadership Team, including:

- S6 events
- Vending Machine
- New Prefect Rota – canteen and mealtimes
- Year Calendar
- Bake off
- House points system

CT thanked Ben and Gemma for their contribution and confirmed there will be a standing agenda item for their reports.

6. Extra-curricular sport (update from Nick Keiller)

NK first noted his thanks to PC for support with the Night of Champions, which was a great success. He then outlined the report on extra-curricular sport in 2021-22 (See paper attached). This shows good levels of pupil participation but highlights the lower participation of girls from S3 upwards. NK expressed gratitude to school staff who run most of the extra curricular sports (plus some parent volunteers and pupils). NK highlighted that any sport could be offered as a club but suitable volunteers or young leaders are needed to run the activity.

~~NK noted his thanks to PC for support with the Night of Champions.~~

NK mentioned that the after school climbing club is currently very popular but an additional leader with climbing skills / qualification is needed to help this run.

Action 2: All to contact NK with any ideas of local climbers who could help.

CC asked about climbing wall at Morrisons Academy and the fact this was funded by Crieff community and why couldn't this be open to the wider community.-EG said that this had previously been queried with Morrisons but it had not been possible to negotiate wider access. CT suggested PC could look at this again.

CT thanks NK for all of his support to widen access to extracurricular activities.

7. Plans for AGM

Date of the AGM agreed as the 6th October

Action 3: Parent Council committee to discuss actions needed for AGM and prepare documents.

8. Minutes and action from previous meeting

Action 4: CTBR to check with BV about the payment for scone Friday at the end of term.

No other items.

9. AOCB (including any plans for Work Experience week)

Work Experience Week – LP confirmed that this will go ahead for S4 pupils in week of 26th September 2022. There has been great support from local companies like Crieff Hydro with a job list of local employers who will take young people, and opportunity for self-found placements.

CT asked about Work Experience opportunities for S5 and S6 pupils who missed out during Covid. LP confirmed that CHS is happy to support S5/S6 taking time out of classes (at an appropriate time) if they would like to organise a relevant work placement retrospective support.

Christmas Dance – PC support to the dances to reduce ticket price – to be discussed at AGM.
Industrial Action – Letter to parents and carers about proposed industrial action – currently not expected to affect CHS.

CC asked about School Trips and affordability for school trips and PC subsidising costs. JD noted that CHS does have funds available to support costs – partial or fully.

HMc asked if a pay as you can approach could be adopted?

JD said there had been a precedent set at other schools and could be considered.

Action 5: JD/CT to check and confirm information on -school dance deadlines

Action 6: All - Ideas for next session in terms of what the PC should be supporting