

# Crieff High School Parent Council

**Draft minutes of meeting held on 17 June 2021**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom 6.30- 8.00pm**

Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader, Rooney Kilgannon (RK) - Head Boy; Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Betsy Vielhaber (BV), Morven Harrower, Billy Russell, Aileen Turkington, Emily James, Rebecca Mackie, Catriona Cunningham, Alison Ritchie (AR), Fiona Perry, Gillian Rose (GR), Lucile Rankin. Apologies: Lily Canon, Helen McCrorie, Nick Keiller

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **2. Head Teacher update (report attached)**

JD outlined recent staffing changes and explained that there are always more changes at this time of year. Programme for last weeks of term was mentioned and includes team-building exercise for new Pupil Leadership Team. No positive Covid19 cases have been experienced in school for a long time.

Discussion: CT noted that we will re-visit parent concerns on the current music teaching provision at a future meeting. General concerns were raised by parents about charges for instrumental teaching at primary level (although this is likely to change following recent Scottish Govt commitments) which may have reduced take-up and then affect interest in studying SQA music at senior level. Also noted that music, plays and other arts are very important part of school life.

## **3. Review of SQA assessment process**

JD summarised the SQA process. CHS has met all the SQA requirements regarding assessments and quality assurance. CHS has improved over results from 2017-2019.

JD noted the SQA will not downgrade awards following this process, so pupils /parents will be able to contact the office to receive subject grades, although formal notification will come from SQA on 10 August as usual.

## **4. Self-evaluation survey results (report attached)**

JD discussed key points. The results show good improvement in most areas, with increased confidence in school performance. Concerns remain on pupil well-being, and need to further improve on two-way communication with parents. Questions about awareness and engagement with the Parent Council show improvement, but this could still be improved. The survey will be repeated in November 2021.

## **5. Mobile phone working group survey**

AR provided an update. Draft surveys for parents and staff were finalised by the group but do not yet appear to have been circulated by school. A pupil survey was also being developed. In discussion all agreed that it would now be better to delay circulating the survey until early next term (in late August) and this would still allow time for the working group to assess responses and help develop the new mobile phone policy.

**Action 1: JD to check status of survey with Morag Fotheringhame and suggest revised timings.**

## 6. Head girl / boy update

CT noted that this was the last meeting for RK as departing head boy (and LC as head girl in absentia). All thanked Rooney and Lily for doing a great job in their roles during a very challenging year and wished them well for their future education. RK expressed thanks to the Parent Council for opportunity to attend meetings, and support provided. JD noted that interviews are scheduled next week for the new senior prefect team (with Parent Council committee input) and the new head boy and girl will be invited to meetings next term.

## 7. Minutes and actions from previous meetings:

AP1: JD/MF to provide updates on this issue (pupil wellbeing) to future meetings, including potential for parent info / training. **Deferred to future meeting next term.**

AP2: JD to share curriculum map and CT to table a further discussion on school music at a future meeting. **Attached with this note for discussion next term.**

AP3: CT to schedule discussion for next year, term 1 on curriculum options, including S1/2 subject choices **Deferred to future meeting next term with input from Ms Telford.**

AP4: AR to liaise with MF about attending Parent Council Technology Group to discuss the mobile phone survey. **Covered above**

AP5: JD to coordinate sending out the mobile phone survey during last 3 weeks of term after assessments completed. **Covered above**

AP6: CT to discuss S6 Yearbook funding request with BR.

**Action 2: RK will check with Lily and report back quickly to CT if contribution is still needed.**

### Other points raised:

a. Website update—GR reported that there has been good progress in past couple of weeks. Almost finished and will do soft launch before end of term. Next phase is staff training and maintenance. CT thanked GR for all her work on the website.

**Action 3: All to review the new website at [Crieffhighschool.org](http://Crieffhighschool.org)**

b. Email communications and descriptive titles—defer to next meeting. One parent asked if an MS Teams channel could be used to post info to year groups, messages, etc.

**Action 4: JD to investigate potential for use of MS Teams channels for year groups and parent communications.**

c. School Awards Ceremony – question on where this can be viewed again. JD noted that some errors were being corrected and the second part of the awards ceremony added before the full video will be re-loaded to Youtube. <https://youtu.be/Z6GGw78FG2o>

d. Covid masks – agreed last meeting that this fundraising idea will not be progressed.

## 8. AOCB

a. Thanks to school staff—idea of gift bag to be created for 95 staff and teachers. Betsy agreed to organise this and coordinate a thank you message from parents.

**Action 5: BV to coordinate gift bags and work with school to distribute to staff before holiday.**

b. PE t-shirts – query on whether it is worth ordering these. JD said that there will be a letter to parents on school uniform policy shortly.

Parents and RK wanted to thank all the teachers for continuing to do such an amazing job in such challenging circumstances. JD agreed to pass this on to school staff.

## 9. Date for the next meeting – 2 September 6:30pm (note – this now to be re-scheduled).

AGM will be in October – provisionally 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Discussed likely continuation of Zoom meetings but try to hold AGM in person. Topics to include deferred items above plus school sport and parent volunteering with Nick Keiller.