

Crieff High School Parent Council

Meeting: Thursday 26 January 2023, Online via Zoom at 6.30pm

Minutes:

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Cathy Tilbrook CT (Chair); Catriona Cunningham CC (Vice chair); Johanne Tripp John Donnelly JD (Head Teacher); Lana Prince LP (Deputy Head Teacher); Ben Knox BK (Head Boy)

Apologies: Clara Walker (Secretary); Morven Harrower; Billy Russell; Helen McCrorie HMc; Fiona Perry; Emily James; Betsy Vielhaber; Gemma Lang (Head Girl)

Cathy expressed disappointment at the low attendance of parents at the meeting, but noted that a number of committee members and regular attendees had needed to cancel due to other issues arising.

2. Update on actions from AGM, committee roles and budget

There were no outstanding actions from last two meetings that are not covered in agenda below (28 October AGM and 17 Nov special meeting on SG National Discussion on Scottish Education).

Although all committee office bearer roles were elected at the AGM, the new treasurer has sadly needed to step down. An appeal has been circulated for another volunteer and we are now following this up with an interested individual.

Budget – at the AGM, it was agreed to make a contribution of Parent Council funds to the following:

- *Contribution to Logos for DoE and homework club £300*
- *Support for school Breakfast club £300 (it was agreed that this would be a good fundraising cause if further funds are needed during the year)*
- *Donation to the junior dance £150*
- *Donation to senior dance £150*
- *Support for school Wellbeing Day £100*
- *Prizegiving Achievement award e.g for inclusion initiatives £100*
- *Plus ongoing costs for Zoom subscription and school website charges*

A further approx. £400 is available to be allocated to further worthy initiatives, in line with previously agreed criteria. Ben requested that a contribution be made to support subsidising costs of the S6 Prom. It was agreed that £100 contribution would be made.

AP 1: BK to liaise with CT (until new treasurer is appointed) to arrange for payment of contribution.

3. Headteacher update (see attached report)

JD highlighted that school roll continues to increase (from 622 to 649 pupils). He highlighted recent staff changes. In response to a question on modern language teaching JD clarified that a qualified supply teacher is covering for long term sickness absence. Key calendar dates were outlined.

The options for new school vision were highlighted. Over 100 responses have been received, with the shortest statement currently most popular.

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Digital schools application – application submitted. This would provide recognition of how far the school has developed its digital status (staff training and investment etc). CC asked whether SG was providing pupils with individual digital devices? JD explained that although this was in SNP manifesto – money not yet provided to LAs to invest (PKC hasn't chosen this option). However CHS now has around 400 devices in school (prefer not to provide laptops to take home as these do not last very long).

JD highlighted that weekly attendance figures are disappointingly low for term 1 and 2. Dropped from 94% to 74% in last weeks around Christmas. Lowest attendance secondary in PKC. S5 year group has especially poor figures.

Guidance staff working really hard to encourage attendance. Reduced case loads for each to 200 pupils and pupil support for each House. JD noted a reluctance from some families to support attendance at school and sometimes keeping pupils at home.

CT noted reports of widespread anxiety and mental health issues post lockdown which affects some pupils' confidence to attend school. Example provided of Highland Council alternative online live school provision and asked whether this is available in PKC. JD suggested that CHS teachers have to develop specific alternative provision for absent pupils, which creates extra work. Suggested that online learning could be done at Scottish level.

It was also noted that there were lots of viruses affecting attendance prior to Christmas, and that some activities (like wellbeing days) might have been seen as optional – especially for senior pupils preparing for prelims.

4. Wellbeing and anti-bullying update – standing item

JD highlighted the latest figures on reporting of bullying incidents in school (see HT report). Concerns were raised on the types of bullying still being experienced. CT noted that HMc was planning to contact the school with related concerns and had suggested that a letter be sent to all parents noting a zero tolerance approach to bullying. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

CT noted that PKC are undertaking a review of the current [PKC Anti-Bullying Strategy](#) and are holding a workshop for parents on Wed 8th March 2023 at Perth Grammar School, 6.30-8pm. *'We are being supported to undertake this piece of work by Brian Donnelly, Orbis Training and Consultancy, who is an award winning Anti-Bullying specialist. Through the work with Brian we hope to hear from children, young people, parents and carers about their experience, priorities, what works well and what you feel could work better to help inform a new strategy that will support positive, respectful relationships and a culture of inclusion in our schools'.*

AP2 : CT to seek volunteer to attend the PKC 8 March meeting and schedule a further discussion on anti-bullying at next Parent Council meeting.

5. Head girl / boy update

Ben Knox provided an update of recent activity:
House Captain's Work

- Wear blue day for C.R.Y
- Halloween decorating doors won by: 1st Mrs Knak, 2nd Mr Wright, 3rd Ms Ansley
- Pyjama day for S6s and this was in conjunction with the food bank collection
- Upcoming interhouse competition Day in March

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Yearbook

- Working with Mr Wright on the committee the last few months
- Produced a 40 paged, hardback yearbook with profiles, puzzles and pictures.
- £17. 00 each, should be up on parent pay soon and parents will be emailed at this point
- Will be available to be purchased by anyone in our year and all staff if they should chose to

S6 Prom

- It has been decided that prom will take place for S6s on May 31st
- It will be at Dunblane Hydro, tickets will include an invitation to the event, a three course meal, a soft drink on arrival and a DJ.
- We have decided against organising transport or a photographer
- Our top priority at the moment is affordability for the pupils so we are working on fundraising ideas for the upcoming weeks
 - Hamper Raffle to be sold at Parents Evenings of the 13th of February Sponsored by Local Businesses
 - Bake Sale at the campus March
- The DJ to do music for the event is currently one of the additional costs. We would like to ask if the Parent Council would be willing to help sponsor and put towards some funds for this.

6. Curriculum review

Lana Prince provided an update on the consultation process on the timing of narrowing down subject choices (currently in S1, going into S2, rather than later in most schools). She noted that whilst S1 pupils had mixed views, most S2 pupils felt course choice too early and all S3 pupils felt it was too early, with some needing to change their course choices. Based on this feedback, and previous response from parents and teaching staff, a final decision has been taken to delay the narrowing of subject choices to the end of S2 (going into S3). This will impact on current S1 pupils.

CT noted that this was a welcome decision to many parents, but rather frustrating that (after several years of discussion on this issue), it had not come in time for the pupils interviewed. JD expressed thanks to LP for completing the curriculum review process.

7. AOB (ECS updates and meetings)

CT provided an update on information for Parent Councils from PKC (pasted below).

JD confirmed that a school musical 'Sunshine on Leith' will be performed around mid June. Parents were very pleased that this would be a great opportunity for pupils and would help build morale after all the Covid disruption to school events.

CC offered to provide a session for senior pupils on University expectations. JD and parents confirmed that this would be welcome.

AP 3: JD to follow up on offer of session for senior pupils with CC on University expectations

8. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 9 March 6.30pm by Zoom

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PKC Education & Children Services update for Parent Councils

Overview of ACEL & SQA data:

Sharon Johnston and David Macluskey, Service Manager (Secondary) shared an overview of ACEL and SQA data:

ACEL data:

Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (ACEL) data is recorded and collected at individual pupil level, for all pupils in the stages of P1, P4, P7, and S3. Each school collects and reports on their own data. Results will be published in December 2022 where we can look and compare results with our comparator Local Authorities. Sharon Johnston noted that she was heartened by the work done in schools where overall performance in attainment this year had been maintained or improved.

SQA data:

S4 to S6 returned to a more 'normal' arrangement noting that 2019 was the last year when pupils undertook exams. An improvement of 2 to 4% in results was noted in relation to the increase in number of passes recorded at A-C.

The following link will allow you to access transparent and comparable information on attainment in all publicly funded schools in Scotland. It tends to have a long lag time before 2022 leavers' results are published but there is a good range of data.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/school-information-dashboard/>

Draft PIE Strategy:

Bernadette Scott, Service Manager (Early Years and Childcare) presented information around key documents that guide Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) at National Level. Please find following link that will take you to the Scottish Government web page in relation to this strategy:

[Learning together: national action plan on parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home 2018 – 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-together-national-action-plan-on-parental-involvement-engagement-family-learning-and-learning-at-home-2018-2021/pages/1-3.aspx)

Details of Local Authorities statutory requirements in this area were shared along with descriptions of what is meant by parental involvement, engagement and family learning. An update on findings from the most recent PIE survey highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

A Local Authority staff group has been set up to review and refresh the PIE strategy and an update on their work was provided including main areas of development work to be progressed. There is more consultative work required with relevant groups and Parent Council chairs were asked to share the presentation with parents and feedback as necessary.

Parent Council Chairs were asked at the meeting to *'Discuss our early thinking around possible actions – Does what we are saying chime with your experience? Do you think we have the right actions? Is there anything else you believe should be included?*

Further to the presentation shared here regarding Parental Involvement and Engagement, we would be grateful if the following question could be considered in relation to slides 11- 14:

Parent Strategy Key Questions:

Do the strengths and areas for improvement reflect what you know about Perth and Kinross?

Are the aims and principles appropriate?

Do you think the planned actions will improve outcomes for families in Perth and Kinross?

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Do you have any other comments?

The following link will take you to a survey form to provide your responses to the above questions, if you could complete this survey by Friday 17 February it would be much appreciated:

<https://forms.office.com/e/YhKBudGhtu>

HWB Survey Update:

Fiona Mackay, Service Manager (Inclusion and Additional Support) shared a presentation re the Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing Census 2021/22. A copy is attached for your information. All schools will be provided with their respective data. The Scottish Government will publish national data in December 2022. The appropriateness of gathering this information was raised as some of the questions were quite private. Fiona Mackay responded that not all questions had to be answered and that you could choose not to answer where you were not comfortable to do so.

The following link will take you to the Scottish Government webpage with information relating to this census:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-and-wellbeing-census-2/>

Please note that since the Parent Council Chairs meeting a further update has been received, and the release date for the Scottish Government report on the Health and Wellbeing Census 2021/22 has been revised to February 2023.

The next Parent Council Chairs meeting is planned to take place on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 6:00p.m. The meeting will be held virtually via MS Teams. Further information and an MS Teams invitation will follow in due course.