

Crieff High School Parent Council

Minutes

Thursday 27 January 2022

Via Zoom at 6.30pm

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Cathy Tilbrook (Chair); Morven Harrower (Vice Chair); Clara Walker (Secretary); John Donnelly (Head Teacher); Pepper Young (Head Girl); Ava Harvey (Head Girl); Anita Spurway; Malize and Andrew Donaldson; Sarah Moore; Alison Ritchie; Gillian Rose; Justin Ross; Catriona Cunningham; Emily & Jonty James; Aileen Turkington; Fiona Perry; Eve Kilgannon.

Apologies: Billy Russell; Helen McCrorie, Betsy Vielhaber

CT thanked Betsy Vielhaber for all her support to the Parent Council and thanked Clara Walker for agreeing to take on the secretary role. The committee roles are now all filled.

2. Headteacher's update (see attached document)

JD gave a verbal update on Staffing; Covid Update; Attendance Update – note average S3 attendance rate is notably lower than other year groups. Guidance team are following this up with pupils and families. Prelims have been on going and have taken up significant time of staff and pupils. Parent's evenings will remain virtual.

Discussion: CT asked for feedback on prelims.

Answer: JD noted that overall it has been satisfactory. Attendance has been excellent. S4s have been particularly good at following the guidance. S5 some small issues but overall smooth.

3. Head girl / boy update

AH – prelims have taken a lot of time; last term – wellbeing days and mental health ambassadors. The MHA programme has been very successful – especially in the S2/S3 groups who tend to need the support and have enjoyed using the space and speaking to senior pupils. Extra-curricular activities have included the senior dance and Mrs Petrie was huge support. Focus groups will be held to identify how the school community has responded to the Head Boy/Head Girl roles.

PY – focus on S6 programme – extracurricular and sporting events; fundraising is also a key aspect of delivery.

CT thanked PY and AV for their input.

4. Curriculum review and feedback from recent survey (see HT update, page 4)

CT explained the background to this issue – many parents have been concerned for some time about the timing of subject choices in CHS (narrowing down subjects studied in S2, compared to S3 in all other Perthshire secondaries). Parent Council welcomed the review and supported meetings with P7 and S1 parents in November. JD reported back on the results from survey of P7/S1 parents and carers (69% against narrowing subject choices during S1). JD explained that Covid constraints meant that there had not yet been time to consult P7 or S1 pupils

Discussion: CT asked if it was too late to apply the changes this year.

JD feels that timescales would not allow for the changes to be implemented this year. There was some concern amongst parents about the changes not being implemented this year but JD felt that he has not had sufficient time to put appropriate plans in place to enable this to happen.

CT reflected that there was some disappointment from the parent body around this. Some concerns were raised about the extent to which P7 pupils could comment meaningfully on the timing of subject choices.

JD accepted the views from the PC but he believes the change in workload for staff that implementing this change would be unsustainable.

Questions around staffing ratios linked to this and the timeframes needed to accommodate the proposed change and the implications for next steps..

JD agreed to confirm a timeline for steps needed if a change were agreed.

Action 1: JD to prepare a timeline for further discussion of this item at next meeting.

5. Mobile phone policy update (see HT update, page 5)

JD updated on the process around reviewing the mobile phone policy and explained the evidence gathering process to develop potential scenarios on future use of mobile devices within the school.

Discussion: CC asked about students being given devices and suggested this would mitigate any issues around not being able to access information. JD noted Betha Park as an example of where every student has been given a device so phones are minimised.

CW asked about implementing the scenarios and gathering evidence around that. JD noted that the new policy scenarios would be consulted on with staff and students next term with the ambition to apply the new policy in the next academic term.

JD noted that CHS is working towards becoming a reading school and this would further support a quiet, no phone policy in certain areas.

Action 2: CT to schedule a further discussion on mobile phone policy and consultation update at next meeting.

6. New school website – demonstration

CT started by thanking Gill Rose who has done a huge amount of work to develop the new website with staff, students and the parent body. Gill gave a demonstration of the new website.

Discussion: CT thanked Gill on behalf of the whole school community. Question to JD on how we can let the school community know what has been done. JD noted his immense thanks to Gill and feels the school is well placed to transition on to

managing and using the new site. JD suggested the school would promote in accordance with the requirements of the PC.

JD updated that an Assistant Campus Manager was to be appointed imminently and they would be involved in updating the website.

CT would like to see a communication going out from the school to parents to let them know about the revamped site. JD said this could be wrapped up in the next update he puts out.

Action 3 – JD to send out a communication to promote the new website.

7. Minutes and actions from previous meetings (28 October AGM)

Action 1: CT to organise gift for GR. *Discharged*

Action 2: JD to ask Senior Prefect Group and teachers for spend proposals. *Ongoing*

Action 3: FP to speak to Logos about funding support. *Discharged – donation made in Dec. 21.*

Action 4: CT to approach existing committee members and appeal to wider parent group for any further volunteers for roles. *Discharged*

Action 5: JD to contact CT to organise the S1/2 curriculum review meeting and promote to relevant parents. *Discharged – meetings held in Nov 21.*

Action 6: **JD to request departments to develop a document on SQA subject requirements and timings. Carried forward as new Action 4.**

8. AOCB

- a. Show my Homework - a parent had asked that the need for clearer visibility of pupil homework was raised again.
- b. Summer school uniform – a parent had asked whether school will consider allowing black shorts to be worn instead of trousers / skirt in warm weather.
- c. Respect for women and girls – a parent raised concerns about offensive language being used by young male pupils within school. This has caused distress for some female pupils.

Action 5: JD to bring any response on these topics to next meeting.

9. Date and topics for next meeting

Next meeting proposed for Thursday 3 March 2022 – including Active Schools update; S1/S2 curriculum choices update; mobile phone policy consultation update; actions to tackle offensive language and respect for women and girls.