

Crieff High School Parent Council

Draft minutes of meeting held on 09 Sept 2021
Virtual meeting via Zoom 6.30pm

Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader; Kerry Telford, Morag Fotheringhame, Pepper Young (Head Girl), Ava Harvey (Head Girl), Gregor Peters (Head Boy) Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Betsy Vielhaber (BV), Emily James, Alison Ritchie (AR), Fiona Perry, Helen McCrorie, Catriona Cunningham, Lucile Rankin, Mr. Warecki, Karen Nicholl, Murdo Campbell

Apologies: Morven Harrower, Billy Russell, Gillian Rose, Rebecca Mackie, Nick Keiller

1. Welcome and apologies

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone especially newcomers and the new head boy and girls.

2. Head Teacher update

Detail is included in attached Head Teacher report.

Key dates for parents:

Friday 24 th September:	S1 Settling in report
Friday 1 st October:	S4 – S6 Target Setting
w/b 27.09.21	Study Support week 1
w/b 04.10.21	Study support week 2

Standards & Quality Report

Results are summarised in the Head Teacher report. Very positive results on improved performance. There were also clear improvements in attendance and attainment compared with previous years and other PKC schools.

3. Improvement Planning Discussion

Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Fotheringhame, and Ms. Telford are each responsible for different improvement areas and outlined these:

Leadership of Change (JD)

- Vision, Values & Aims – this is now outdated. To review and revise with pupils.
- General Teaching Council Scotland have a standard for Principal Teachers – each should lead their team but also lead an element of school development. Currently focusing on self-evaluation and conversations on ideas for school development.
- Looking at Pupil Leadership Academy to provide a clear pathway from S1 to S6 and prepare for becoming a prefect in senior phase. Teachers will carry out an audit in each year group to check current opportunities and capacity and get pupil ideas.

Gregor discussed ideas for getting S3 to be able to take on jobs. Also to ensure current Prefects have a leadership role and can work on things they are passionate about (maybe charity projects or greening issues) rather than just duties. JD supported this.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment (KT)

- S1 curriculum will be reviewed this year, including different models. This will include boosting vocational options such as Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework - big focus on new apprenticeships etc, and National Progression Awards. CT noted that the Parent Council would like to have input to this curriculum review, building on previous discussions about S1/2 subject choices.
- Digital learning - build on experience from online schooling. Will be working with staff to up-skill.
- Intervention - building on and sustaining upwards trends by catching pupils with intervention needs as early as possible. Help make sure all pupils are attaining Broad General Education levels.

Wellbeing, equality and inclusion (MT)

- School is reporting and acting on all bullying incidents, and will involve pupils in helping improve their approach.
- Inclusive practice: Evaluating how CHS can become fully inclusive to all learners. Validated self-evaluation with Education Scotland is happening with all 11 secondary schools in P&K. Using the P&K and national CIRCLE framework, we will self-evaluate how inclusive learning areas are within the school and seek to further improve in this regard. Training for staff will be available throughout the year.
- Mental health policy – a whole school approach is being developed, following the survey feedback from last term. A Wellbeing Hub is being created and various groups (including Mindspace, Logos, Lighthouse) come into school to provide pupil support. Additional money given to schools through the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) continues to be used to reduce inequities that exist within the Scottish Education system. Pupil mental health ambassadors are being recruited and will receive training. One parent asked about ways to make school fun again. Ava said the Senior Prefect Team is planning some themed activities and events, such as for Halloween. Different lunch time clubs are also being developed (not just sports).

4. Head girl / boy update

Gregor, Ava and Pepper introduced themselves and their plans for the year. They are trying to involve the wider Prefect team more and further develop the House system this year. They are also working on improving school clubs and groups and creating associated leadership opportunities. The school recently held a team building exercise with the senior prefects. Mr. Donnelly mentioned pupils could be involved in providing tannoy announcements. Pupil council has a technology group and will look at this.

5. Minutes and actions from previous meeting June 2021

*AP1: JD to check status of mobile phone survey with Morag Fotheringham and suggest revised timings. Update – **AP1: MF to liaise with CT and AR around the timing and process for distributing the mobile phone survey.***

AP2: RK will check with Lily and report back quickly to CT if contribution is still needed (for S6 yearbooks). Update: No longer required.

AP3: All to review the new website at www.crieffhighschool.org Update – see under AOB

AP4: JD to investigate potential for use of MS Teams channels for year groups and parent communications.

AP5: BV to coordinate gift bags and work with school to distribute to staff before holiday. Update – gift bags and thank you notes were distributed to all school staff last term and were much appreciated. CT thanked BV for organising all of this.

6. AOCB

Website – GR sent an update report to confirm that the website is now live and being used. www.crieffhighschool.org Links to the school's social media channels have been added, meaning that this content can be easily accessed without needing to have any social media account. Staff training on website will take place on 6 October, and it is hoped that content updating will then be carried out regularly, and use will rise. A website performance report was provided. CT thanked GR again for her generous input of specialist time to school website development on a voluntary basis. **AP2: CT and JD to discuss message to parents next term to publicise the new website and encourage its use.**

School communications – a parent asked if there was any progress on clarifying email message headings to help parents quickly identify the topic of different messages. Some parents also reported that they get separate emails for each pupil at the school. **AP3: JD to raise issues again and see if improvements can be made.**

School extra-curricular sport – Nick Keiller (Active Schools) provided an update to confirm that clubs have re-started this week and a timetable has been provided to parents and pupils. He will attend a future meeting to provide more information on extra-curricular sport opportunities and how parents can support these.

Homework notifications – parents felt that there is no longer an easy way to check whether pupils have homework, or on deadlines / feedback on quality of submissions. JD explained that 'Show My Homework' was prohibitively expensive and the school has moved to using MS Teams but there is a decision to be taken at a national-level about providing parents to access this. It was agreed that we should discuss with other Parent Councils whether this is a shared issue and whether a joint approach to SG through Parent Councils might be useful. **AP4: CT to follow this up with other Parent Council bodies.**

7. Date for the next meeting

Parent Council AGM will be 28 October, 6.30pm by Zoom. Agenda to be circulated. In addition to AGM business, it was suggested that curriculum review could be focus of discussion. **AP5: CT and JD to liaise over documents to circulate – curriculum maps, comparison of curriculum approaches across PKC etc.**

Meeting ended 20:18