

1. Welcome/apologies:

Apologies; Kirsteen Jones; Monica Thompson; Catriona Cunningham; Helen McCrory

Attending; Emma Martin (Vice-chair) EM; Ross McNaughton (Secretary) RM; Nicola Fraser (Treasurer) NF; Ishbel Dale (Co-chair) ID

Astrid Walker (AW); Cristy Gilbert (CG); Jude Carter (JC); Malize Donaldson (MD); Louise Reposo (LR);

Emily James (EJ); Morven Harrower (MH)

John Donnelly Head Teacher (JD)

2. Minutes from last meeting on 05.09.24

Exhibited and approved

3. Constitution & annual council agreement

Exhibited & approved

4. PKC mobile phone policy update – update from meeting of 18th February

JD noted that CHS has fed back from the Parent Forum on 18th February. He will be attending a meeting on 12th March, to discuss working draft of the PKC policy with a to seeking further comments from stakeholders. The draft policy document will go through various iterations before being finalised in the next few months. JD's view is that this is already a robust document which is being worked on at pace. JD says there will be another consultation when the document is at a more advanced stage.

EM asks JD if it is pushing decision-making on to head teachers? JD says, yes, but that is probably a good thing. The policy is robust and so he expects the policy to fully support his decision-making. EJ wonders if Scot Govt is driving this as opposed to local authority. JD – Scot Govt provides the guidance, At school level, it is not that decision-making is paused, but it must now be decided at PKC level.

Regarding CHS devices – JD says that circa £170k has been spend at CHS on devices, but maintenance is expensive and £40k has had to be spent on maintenance.

EJ wonders if it would now be good to have a technical support team/employee to deal with this. JD recognises this might be beneficial but also says there will be funds available from the school budget this year which can be spent on additional devices.

NF says she is making further enquiries with PKC about how developer contributions from the housebuilders at Broich Road will be spent. She also proposes approaching housebuilders on behalf of the PKC to see if they might make discretionary contributions to Parent Council which could be utilised for, amongst other things, devices.

5. New committee

ID wonders how queries by the wider parent community are raised. She makes a the suggestion that there should be one point of contact.

Action 1 - RM to look into creating an email address that could be used for that purpose.

NF says she is now named on the Parent Council bank account and corresponding with the RBS and any issues should be resolved soon. NF also enquiring about compliance tasks. EM suggest it would be helpful to look at the website for Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council). NF also says it would be helpful to have additional signatories on the account. EM, RM & ID volunteer to do that. Discussion around what to spend present and future funds on. In the past this has been things like ties, breakfast club, book tokens, dance etc.

Action 2 to include the spending of Parent Council funds and fundraising as an agenda item at the next meeting.

AW points out that it is probably best to have something in particular to raise funds for. CPS has found this to be beneficial.

6. Prelim results overview &

7. Class behaviour/teaching resources

See attached document (including Parents' Evening Analysis Comparison and National Measures (Leavers) for 2022-24).

JD points out he can only speak on this in general terms.

4th, 5th and 6th year have sat their Generally, the 4th year group require difference strategies to the 5th & 6th groups with more guidance and intervention from staff. JD says there is a sharper drop-off from the top 20-30% of performers and it is expected that this will be more pronounced than in the previous two years. For context though, the current S5 had the best results ever for the school when in 4th year. There has been above average results for s5 and s6 in the past and so for S4 this may be hard to replicate. Some of the behaviour in S4 has been more challenging. Senior management have been having a focus on maths & English in s4 and this has had a positive effect with young people now being more purposeful.

MH wonders if this is an issue for s4 across all subject areas. JD says it depends, as certain young people have chosen the same subjects. JD does point out that, contextually, the numbers of disruptive students is small. EJ makes the point that it the appropriate level of education is important - her young person says that a number of students have moved to nat4 and this has made a big difference to behaviour in class. MH asks if there is enough staff in English – JD says there is, they have cover just now and thereafter it will be advertised.

ID mentions attainment in music following Mr Griffiths leaving – JD says that he is not concerned about attainment in music. Recognises that it will always be difficult transition following Mr Griffiths Leaving. ID mentions staffing issues in science – JD says two staff members are off longish term. They have a supply teacher and other staff that are covering. Difficulty of getting supply teachers, just generally. Mrs Birrell is leaving CDT and joining Wallace HS. There is some cover from existing staff. There is a job advertisement for principal teacher of design of CDT & art. Ms Mendez is settling in very well as PT of languages and JD is very pleased to have her. Money not spent on supply teachers, can be spent on resources, study support classes etc.

8. CHS Parent Council commitments for the rest of the session

To be rolled forward to next meeting.

Action 3 Parent Council commitments for the rest of the session to be an agenda item.

9. Head Teacher Report (there is a separate report)

See attached document (with Staffing Update and Dates for the Diary)

Staffing update - JD wants to be fully staffed for August. Start with PT jobs as they may be filled by existing staff. JD expects there will be retirements of very experienced staff.

Parents evenings attendance – s4 currently at 55% attendance and was pretty low in previous years. Attendance is generally low – what can be done to improve attendance? Is hybrid putting people off? CHS is putting out more communication, but engagement is still low. For example, report cards are not being opened by parents. Despite this, it is a negative trend as regards the levels of communication between parent & school. AW wonder if it is about timing, for example report cards and parents evenings being close together. JD says it depends, for example some parents might see a good report and then not have so much interest in attending parent evening.

JD notes that engagement sessions have been fairly well-attended by 10 to 20 parents, although it is generally the same parents. JD thinks it would be good to revisit this and to have a discussion about communications and reporting.

Leavers data - schools are assessed on how well they do on this and they should be equal to or ahead of virtual comparator. The data shows that CHS need to be attaining more literacy and numeracy at level 5 at leaving. Another measure is 'Positive destinations' and on this measure is CHS meeting or ahead of each of the virtual comparator, PKC, Tayside & Scotland. The middle section for last the last number of years has been below the VC though. Highest and lowest attainers at CHS do better than VC.

JD says that post-covid differences are evidenced by the data. Is it put to JD if the PC could have a role in formal improvement planning? JD thinks so by informing, discussing, indirect involvement. JD would ask that this be discussed by PC in the future. Importance of context though, CHS is consistently in top 100 secondary schools in Scotland. Importance of looking at trends and targeting resources where appropriate.

10. AOB

JD wants to thank Helen McCrory for her input over the years as she steps down from the PC.

LR wants to point out that the ski trip was brilliant, her young person really enjoyed it and she just wants to have it noted.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 29th April, 630pm at Crieff High School.

CLOSE