

Minutes of Braes High Parent Council Meeting on Tuesday 5th May 2020 (held via zoom)

Present : Elspeth McCallum (Chair), Wendy MacPherson (Treasurer), Donna Ainslie, Kirsty Baird, Diane Dagger, Tim Gollins, Ailsa Johnston, Morag Lang, Claire Lawson, Neil MacAulay, Kevin Mackay, Alison Mitchell, Gillian Surphlis, David Surphlis (parents)
I Livingstone (Headteacher), M Cotter, C Gilmour, D Ironside J Wilkinson, E Taylor (staff)

Apologies : L Cranston

1. Previous minute/Matters arising (9th March 2020)

The previous minute was accepted as accurate and proposed by A Mitchell and seconded by T Gollins.

I Livingstone reported back on a follow up discussion with Mrs McManus re the global recognition of success. This will be included in the School Improvement Plan in the coming session.

2. Hub provision

I Livingstone gave an update on current Hub provision arrangements.

3. Staffing

I Livingstone gave an update on staffing changes, noting C Gilmour's impending move to Stonelaw HS as Depute Headteacher in August, the forthcoming return of J Shaw in June as DHT Lomond and the permanent appointment of Emma Shanks to Drama and Sarah Lumsden to Mathematics. The PT Technology post will be recruited shortly.

4. Initial review of remote learning

D Ironside noted that the school are pleased with how the initial weeks of online teaching and remote learning have gone. The feedback from the recent pupil & parental survey review of this has now been collated. The main points for consideration were ensuring appropriate variety in tasks, encouraging direct interaction between teachers and pupils, continuing to offer feedback on learning and the organisation of task setting.

Discussion centred on ensuring the balance between pupils and families not being overwhelmed with activities, while also ensuring pupils remain on track with their learning progress.

5. Moving Learning On

M Cotter built on the points made in the previous discussion item regarding ensuring appropriate progress with an update on the plans to 'move learning on' from Monday 11th May. Among the points made were:

- the decision to bring forward this date for moving learning on in order to keep the impetus of learning and progression
- The organisation of tasks set via Show My Homework for new S1-3 pupils, and via the Teams Assignments section for S4-6 pupils
- The welcome to new teams and classes by teachers from Monday 11th May

Discussion noted that where work is set needs to be consistent across all faculties as sometimes other media/messages have been used, which can result in pupils missing information. This will assist pupils by giving them a single place to check.

Action – school to ensure work is set consistently across all subjects within the assignments/tasks sections of SMH/Teams

6. Pastoral Support

J Wilkinson updated on the approaches undertaken by the Pastoral Team to continue to offer support to pupils and their families since the school shutdown.

E Taylor outlined strategies in place to support our most vulnerable young people and families, and invited contributions from the group to a forthcoming drive to collate resources for our young people.

Action – further information to come from the Onwards and Upwards Team to the Parent Council to promote this.

7. Transition

J Wilkinson gave an update on the approaches planned with our associated primary schools to support incoming S1 pupils as far as possible. This builds on the multiple transition activities that have already occurred. Among the points made were:

- The need to acknowledge the emotional aspect of our young people's move from primary to secondary
- The need to ensure some kind of closure to the young people's primary school experience
- Plans to ensure our new S1 pupils can build relationships with young people from other associated primary schools

8. SQA

D Ironside updated on current SQA processes, highlighting the multiple layers of the process and responding to queries as to what types of evidence might be referred to in arriving at holistic judgements.

9. Website

C Gilmour demonstrated the newly designed school website which was launched on 1st May. It was well received and the importance of the website for transition was also noted.

Action – Parent Council to consider their contribution to the website.

10. School Improvement Plan

I Livingstone outlined how the views of the Parent Council would be sought for the the content of the new School Improvement Plan. He requested volunteers to make contact directly to him re willingness to be involved in perusal of relevant self-evaluation material and subsequent discussion.

Action – Parent Council members to consider potential involvement and contact I Livingstone.

11. Treasurer's Report

There have been no transactions since the last meeting, therefore the bank balance is £623.59.

No acknowledgement or payment has been received to date from Children's Services for the audited accounts that were submitted.

Action – W Macpherson to contact Children's Services for an update on funding.

12. AOB

A number of AOB items were noted including:

- The nature of welcomes to new Teams as of 11th May
- Whether it is required to pick up resources (jotters/paper/pencils/pens) from the various local locations these are available
- A query over an attendance letter
- Marking the end of school journey for this year's S6 leavers

Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd June, 7pm