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Braes High School Parent Council Meeting Tuesday 19 October 2021 7pm Zoom meeting

Present: Kenneth MacKinnon, Donna Ainslie, Kirsty Baird, Anne Watt, Davey Surphlis, Wendy MacPherson, Diane Dagger, Fiona Robertson, Craig Duncan, Morag Lang, Councillor Adanna McCue

Staff: Iain Livingstone, Fiona Malcolm. Pupils; Gracie Proudlock, Ben Adams, Sophie, Ailsa

Apologies: Heather McManus, Craig Pettie, Alison Mitchell

Kenneth MacKinnon welcomed everyone to the meeting and chaired the meeting.

Matters arising from previous minutes of Tuesday 1st June 2021.

Iain Livingstone informed parents the Scottish Government Insight data had been released and was showing healthy trends.

. Exams

. Exams and content adjustments.

. Accreditation as in previous years

Braes staff have been introduced to Braes Brightside, focusing on Health and Wellbeing and this will be rolled out to parents soon.

Kenneth MacKinnon asked about Show My Homework and Iain Livingstone said pupils are confidently using Teams now for homework, this is working well.

Parent volunteers for the School Improvement Plan 2022/2023 will be very welcome soon.

Wendy MacPherson, treasurer, informed parents that the usual grant from Falkirk Council has now been received and that changing signatories for the bank is underway.

Davey Surphlis asked if Darren Yeates is still on Braes Staff, Iain Livingstone informed us, yes, he is in charge of Pupil Support.

Donna Ainslie proposed the minutes. Wendy MacPherson seconded them.

Kenneth MacKinnon added that Stephen Kerr, MSP Central Scotland, convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee is interested to hear views of all involved in education and encouraged all to get involved with the Education reform consultation hosted by Prof Ken Muir. Details can be found on the Scottish Government website.

School update.

Iain Livingstone thanked parents again for attending and introduced Ben and Gracie from the Senior Pupil Council.

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Ben told us that both Senior and Junior Pupil Council groups have been electing Chairpersons. Microsoft Forms has been used and results will be in next week.

A local artist is helping to repaint the graffiti wall, at the bus bay, it will be a word wall.

Gracie added that the Senior Group had been discussing practice exams.

There will also be a Halloween Fundraiser on Friday 29 October, pupils can dress up or down and the proceeds will be split between Strathcarron Hospice, Bliss, Barnardos and our local food bank.

Pupils have discussed a new water fountain on the 3rd floor, this will cost several thousand pounds so this will be kept in mind for the future. iPad screen protectors are very useful and

Kenneth MacKinnon proposed that the figure of £600 could be donated to iPad screen protectors. Kirsty Baird seconded this. (Parent Council current balance is £1688.60.)

This donation will not cover the total cost but will be very welcome. Linda Cranston will email details to Wendy MacPherson.

Iain Livingstone thanked both pupils for attending the meeting.

Rights Respecting Schools/UNCRC update.

Fiona Malcolm, Head of Humanities, spoke about the upcoming RRS accreditation on 8 December. This will be held virtually for 3 years, no definite details yet.

UNCRC is becoming law, this has been delayed by possibly 6 months.

Both the Junior and Senior RRS groups have been very busy.

Sophie and **Olivia** told us the Junior group have been involved with discussion about climate change and the Pop up shop with Miss Godfrey.

The Senior Group have been working on the Leadership Project with Mrs Menzies and Christmas present drive. They are supporting Falkirk Foodbank and Connecting Classrooms, linked with a school in Zimbabwe. Cheryl Butler, school counsellor, has been involved in the early stage discussion about older pupils helping younger pupils.

In December the school commemorates genocide. 3 pupils have taken part in a live panel about the cost of the school day.

Fiona Malcolm is an ambassador across Falkirk Council Schools and across Scotland.

All of the above should see Braes in a strong position. Build respect and Be part of it, links with the school motto.

General Update.

Iain Livingstone told us that the Covid 19 Government Guidance for schools, published earlier online, shows no changes to the current arrangements.

Inter House activities are again underway in school.

Friday 29 October will be the charity fun day and there may even be staff dressing up and a tug of war.

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Staffing.

Despite significant staff and pupil absence recently, pupil attendance is looking healthy.

Ruth Kelly will be covering for Michael Burns, Lomond House.

Work continues with the Onwards and Upwards group and Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative Group. AOB

Kenneth MacKinnon noted that the Parent Council Zoom meetings are currently held from Heather McManus' family account.

He suggested that a Zoom subscription is something the Parent Council could buy and share the resource with FAB.

Wendy MacPherson suggested using Microsoft Teams. Iain Livingstone added that Teams are used through Glow. More discussion to follow.

Next meeting is Wednesday 1 December.

Wendy MacPherson gave her apologies for that meeting.

Future meeting dates Thursday 20 Jan 2022 Monday 8 March Wednesday 4 May Thursday 2 June

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