

BRAES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minute 4.5.22

Present : H McManus (Chair), K MacKinnon, A Anderson, A Watt, J Shaw, R Kelly, R Grant (pupil), R Bryson (pupil), I Henderson, L Murkowski (pupil), E Booth (pupil), C Duncan, D MacPherson (pupil)

1. Previous minute/matters arising

H McManus welcomed all to the meeting. The previous minute was accepted as accurate and proposed by M Lang and seconded by K MacKinnon. I Livingstone updated on two matters arising, noting the open request for parent/carer engagement on the School Improvement Plan. Kenny noted his interest in liaising with David Ironside (DHT) in this and suggested bringing the draft priorities to the next Parent Council meeting. Iain noted that David was planning to do this and was also reaching out to parents/carers on this matter. Iain also advised that the Health and Wellbeing Survey was now completed.

2. Pupil Analysis of 'How Good is OUR School?'

Jillian Shaw introduced Douglas MacPherson and Ruby Grant, who gave an excellent presentation outlining their progress analysing areas of school activity using the self-evaluation document 'How Good is OUR School' Both Douglas and Ruby were congratulated by the Parent Council on their input, which will feed into the improvement planning for session 2022/23.

3. Family Learning/Good Food Ambassadors programme

Ruth Kelly introduced Lilly Murkowski, Euan Booth and Rhudi Bryson who presented very well on their recent work as Good Food Ambassadors within the school. The pupils reported on their learning about food provenance, their development of the school's PolyCrub and recent visits to local farms. The group were commended on their work by the Parent Council.

4. General Update

Iain gave a general update, including the following:

- the sensible and mature attitude shown by senior phase pupils in SQA examinations
- the positive atmosphere created by S6 pupils on their final day in school before exams
- the new COVID-19 isolation rules
- the good response to the recent drive on school uniform
- the forthcoming Parental Engagement Survey
- the Braes Brightside Walk scheduled for Saturday 18th June

The plans for in-person events involving parents/carers were also noted. The advantages and disadvantages of in-person and online events were discussed, and it was agreed that Iain would look at developing a mixed model of online and in-person events and meetings for next session, with further discussion at future Parent Council meetings.

Iain also updated on the recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education, conducting a 'Recovery Visit'. Iain outlined the positive commentary from the visit and also the suggestions for future development

5. Communication from Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council

Heather raised the recent communication from the Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council, seeking Parent Council endorsement of their campaign to promote safe driving speeds on Shieldhill Road. The Parent Council agreed with the purpose of the campaign but noted they were unsure as to the evidence that would support this being a widely-reported school community issue. Iain suggested that the message of safe driving in and around the school community continued to future in school communications. This point was agreed and will be taken forward in school communications.