

PARENT COUNCIL

PRESENT: Lee Menzies, Irene Birtwhistle, Cllr Alastair Forsyth, Carole Allan, Ashley Strachan, Carol Walker, Jane Bisset

DATE OF MEETING: 11 May 2020

	NOTES	ACTION
1	CW welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and asked for comments on the Minutes of the last meeting.	
2	Apologies: Cllr. Anne Stirling, Fleur Barron, Shirley Anderson, Sam James, Cllr. Iain Taylor	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting Proposed: Irene Birtwhistle Seconded: Ashley Strachan	
4	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes None.	
5	Headteacher's Report Staffing Maths teacher appointed from Germany to start in August. Biology teacher appointed, again, to start in August.	

	<p>HE teacher appointed, again, to start in August.</p> <p>There have also been SFL interviews taking place.</p> <p>Since Easter we have also had a part-time Biology Teacher started and is now working with the Science Team.</p> <p>SQA</p> <p>Critical work is ongoing regarding SQA. SLT are meeting with all Faculty Heads re evidence and estimates for SQA. During weeks beginning 11 and 18 May, SLT are involved in QA process involving large amounts of data (including statistics gathered over the last 3 years). Estimates will not be shared with pupils and parents at this time – this is a legal requirement due to SQA procedures.</p> <p>Learning at Home</p> <p>First priority is Health and Wellbeing – to keep everyone safe and well. Virtual learning has been ongoing over the weeks and weekly signposting has made to clearer for parents and pupils to follow.</p> <p>40-45 Chrome Books have been issued to pupils who have issues regarding ICT, and connectivity problems are being solved by resources being printed and posted to pupils who need them.</p>	
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	<p>The Learning at Home Team from the Authority have been investigating dongles to boost internet connectivity for some – and this would be funded by PEF Funding.</p> <p>Concern was raised about how pupils would be able to catch up on learning – LM explained that once school resumes, learning will probably be in different ways, and pupils will be supported in a variety of ways to catch up. Pupils will also be supported to the next step in their learning or positive destination.</p> <p>Moving Learning Forward</p> <p>Since week beginning 4 May the Learning has moved forward with a focus of for our new S4 – S6. Learning will move forward for the new S2 – S3 in early June. Primary 7 transition has begun with the establishment of the Bridging Group, for which there is a virtual parents’ evening this week. Primary 7 transition is on-going.</p> <p>Authority Term 4 Planning</p> <p>SLT are on several of the Authority planning Groups to ensure that plans are in place for a return to school.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>CW asked if learning would become more interactive. LM explained that this will change with more use of the ‘chat’</p>	

	<p>facility between teachers and pupils. Also, that more and more staff were going to be using video to explain things to pupils as part of their virtual learning.</p>	
7	<p>AF gave positive comments re how parents felt virtual learning was going.</p> <p>LM thanked all parents for their support. LM would also like to encourage comments and chat from parents and also between pupils and their teachers at this time.</p>	
8	<p>Cllr Forsyth congratulated LM on her brief on what staff and pupils are doing and welcomed her focus on Health and Wellbeing. This is exactly what is expected at this time.</p> <p>He commented that Aberdeenshire Council were ahead in their provision of ICT equipment and support.</p> <p>Thanks were given by Cllr Forsyth to all staff for their hard work during this difficult time.</p>	
9	<p>IB mentioned that there are concerns about anxious pupils</p>	

	<p>in this time of change. LM responded that, as always, the first point of contact with the school should be with the Guidance teacher, who has the full picture of the pupils in their charge. A large amount of work is on-going regarding pupil welfare, to calm pupil and parent anxieties at this time. LM to include this in her weekly briefing, and will also mention that catch up opportunities will be available as school returns.</p>	
10	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>None, due to the absence of the Treasurer.</p>	
11	<p>Pupils</p> <p>KM commented that S6s are finding it difficult at the moment and were very unsure about their next steps due to the present situation. CW thanked KM for her input into the committee during the time she had been on the Parent Council.</p>	
12	<p>PC Taylor</p> <p>PC Taylor was thanked in his absence, and congratulated on his retirement. Pupils had sent good wishes and thank you messages electronically.</p>	

<p>13</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>AGM</p> <p>Next meeting should be the AGM. This would have to be carried out virtually. However, Authority advice was given that under exceptional circumstances, the meeting could be held after the summer as long as the parent body is aware. A flexible approach is recommended.</p> <p>Weekly News Update</p> <p>LM explained that anything the Parent Council would like included in the weekly update to parents should be submitted by 4 pm on Thursdays for issue on Friday at 2 pm.</p>	
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