

ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING



MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021

PRESENT:

MR P McLAUGHLIN (HT)
MRS J LIVINGSTONE (PT Bus Ed)
MRS Y WEBB (Chair)
MS S MacLEAN (Vice Chair)
MS M McCARNEY (Parent)
MR D McCULLOCH (Parent)
MR D CHAPPELLE (Parent)
MRS M WILSON (Parent)
MRS V McRAE (Parent)
MRS E CAIRNEY (Parent & PTA Rep)
MS L FAIRBAIRN (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

MRS S BOYLE (DHT)
MR T BRESLIN (Church Rep)
MRS A HENDERSON (Parent)
MS K McCARTHY (Parent)
MR J O'DOWD (Parent)
MR K McKENNA (Co-opted member)
Cllr J JAMIESON

This meeting was held on-line due to COVID19

After some technical issues, Mrs Webb welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

- Mr McLaughlin explained that our big focus has been on SQA Assessments. It hasn't been easy, but we've managed to get by. These assessments gave us a good indication of how pupils are doing and we have contacted parents twice regarding the working grades. Quality Assurance takes place next week with the Authority. We had 2 in-service days to work on gathering all information/evidence. Teachers aim to be finished this by Friday 11 June. Grades are expected to go out hopefully by 21 June. The Authority will decide on a date for all schools. This will give parents and pupils time to question any grades they feel are not what was expected. The Appeals process begins on 25 June.
- We are ready to start the new timetable from Monday 14 June till 24 June.
- S6 leavers had their award ceremony today in the Assembly Hall, followed by an adventure afternoon. Mass will be held tomorrow (Tuesday 8 June) but unfortunately parents will be unable to attend. S6 will finish up on Wednesday 9 June.
- P7 Transitions have been held virtually however, they will be able to come into the school for a couple of days this month. We have been liaising with Primaries.
- Monday 14 June will be a normal day with times of the school day going back to pre-lockdown and bus times have been re-arranged. School starts for all pupils at 8.45am Lunch times has been moved to 1.10 - 2.00 for all pupils as it has been found that pupils are more productive in the mornings.
Intervals will be staggered to limit the amount of pupils in the social area at one time. Lunchtimes are not as much of a concern, as many pupils leave the premises.
School day finishes 3.40 Mon, Tues, Wed and 2.50 Wed and Fri.

Ms McCarney offered thanks for all the help there has been for pupils and parents and expressed how exhausted she has felt and how hard this long process has been on the pupils. She felt the system suited some people more than others but acknowledged how fantastic the teachers have been. Her main concern is if they will be plagued with appeals all summer.

Mrs MacLean asked about the S1 intake numbers as they are higher than expected. Mr McLaughlin explained that the Authority to go ahead and accept all catchment requests. The higher numbers are not a problem to us as our staffing is role related. If the numbers go up, so does staffing. There is an on-line meeting tonight for S1s. Mrs Webb, who has another child due to start in S1 felt the last meeting was handled very well.

Mr McCulloch offered his personal thanks to Mr McLaughlin and his staff on their handling of the whole Covid event. He felt that many pupils have suffered educationally not having face-to-face contact with teachers and asked what provision for catchup is planned for next year. Mr McLaughlin explained that the government are providing some funding to help pupils to catch up. He also explained that we need guidance soon about exams next year. The SQA will need to tell us what allowances will be made to allow for missed topics etc. We have no control over that. He reminded the group that in August, after the last lockdown we targeted pupils identified as struggling with numeracy and literacy and gave additional support.

Mrs Wilson asked about next year's option choices as some have not been confirmed yet. Mr McLaughlin explained that there is still a bit of work to be done, but the majority of pupils should get their choices and this should be sorted for the start of the new timetable. He acknowledged that we are not in the same place as in previous years, but that was only to be expected.

Miss Livingstone explained that as a PT, they are waiting for SQA guidance. Some elements had been removed from courses to simplify them and to take into account the current circumstances, but departments have plans in place to cope with any changes.

Mrs Cairney extended her thanks to all staff and added that we need to remember everyone is in the same position and this is not just a local problem as everyone is equally affected. She asked if it is likely that meetings will go back to face-to-face rather than on-line when we come back after summer as she would like to handover the PTA rains in person. Mr McLaughlin would like most things to go back to normal but felt that many things eg updating one-ways systems, face mask etc have been forgotten about and seem to be permanently in place. It was felt that there was a change in ethos when masks were introduced, and relationships changed between teachers and pupils and between pupils. Mrs Cairney, who will no longer be on the PTA after summer is delighted that they have still managed to raise funds despite most events being cancelled. Mrs McCarney thanked Evelyn on behalf of the Parent Council for her massive contribution to the school through the PTA.

Mrs MacLean gave a brief update on the effects of Covid on all aspects of education.

Mrs Webb offered to let anyone see a presentation given by J MacDonald. Anyone interested should contact her.

Mr McLaughlin thanked the Parent Council for their constant support to himself and the staff. This has been invaluable and staff have really appreciated it. Mrs Webb added that the Parent Council want to continue to find ways to help.

Mrs Webb thanked everyone for attending and it was agreed that the first meeting after summer should still be via Zoom.

Next meeting: Monday 6 September 2021 at 7pm – to be confirmed.