**ST NINIAN’S HIGH SCHOOL**

**MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**



**MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT:                             MR P McLAUGHLIN (HT)

MRS S BOYLE (DHT)

MS J LIVINGSTONE (PT Bus Ed)

MRS Y WEBB (Chair)

MS S MacLEAN (Vice Chair)

MS K McCARTHY (Parent)

MR J O’DOWD (Parent)

MR D McCULLOCH (Parent)

MR D CHAPPELLE (Parent)

MRS M WILSON (Parent)

MRS V McRAE (Parent)

MS M McCARNEY (Parent)

MS K JAMIESON (Parent)

MR T BRESLIN (Church Rep)

MS L FAIRBAIRN (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:              MR K McKENNA (Co-opted member)

 Cllr S MURRAY

This meeting was held on-line due to COVID19

Mrs Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to Mr McLaughlin.

Mr McLaughlin referred to comments in previous minutes.

* Shortage of cleaners - There has been an improvement. Some staff who were absent have now returned.
* C02 monitors – These were put in all classes over the October holiday and have been fine so far. If they should go off it is to highlight a drop in air quality and should only require windows to be opened.
* Learning Loss – Funding for Supported Study has been granted for all schools. Ms F Johnston has organised a program which is just about ready to go.
* SQA results – Mr McLaughlin discussed a slide showing our exam results over the past 3 years. These all showed very similar figures showing that this year’s results were genuine, and we are in line with where we should be.
* Tracking – We track progress every month throughout the year so we can monitor pupils who may be struggling. We have a mentoring program about to start where teachers volunteer to help pupils by offering help and suggest study plans on a one-to-one basis. This is particularly important this year.
* Covid – numbers of cases in the school have greatly reduced. Greg Bremner has confirmed that they are reducing in all schools in EDC. Most staff who were affected have now returned. The absence rate is still too high and not reducing as quickly as we would like. This is possibly down to parents being extra cautious. Protocol is still in place with masks being worn in class and hand sanitisation still readily available.
* SQA exams – We are assuming there will be an SQA diet next year unless Covid changes things. The SQA Review will not be completed before the exams so will not impact on them.
* Prelims – some departments are not as far on as others. November assessments for S4 will not go ahead. Some departments will have S5/S6 assessments in class from 29 November till 10 December in class during double blocks. Other departments will have theirs in January. It will be up to individual departments to buy into these. If the SQA agree that exams are going ahead, there will be further assessments in March as pupils will not have had assessments under exam conditions.
* Reporting – There was a leak at the start of the October holiday that masks would no longer be necessary, and that Parents’ Nights would be on. This is not happening.
* Monthly Tracking is sent to parents showing Effort, Behaviour and Homework, and Working Grade for senior pupils. Information on reports for S2 pupils was shared with parents by phone calls from Guidance Teachers.
* S4, S5 & S6 Parents’ Nights are due this Thursday. Not all parents will be contacted but we will contact parents of targeted pupils who may be struggling. EDC do not have a protocol to hold on-line Parents’ Nights. Boclair Academy are piloting this. It is possible to contact Guidance Teachers at any time if there are concerns. Many members of staff have been absent for more than 10 days which has caused problems. Parents need reassurance that pupils are still on-track. It is frustrating that current EDC software is of no use this far down the line.
* Trips: Outdoor Learning. We are not able to run residential trips but are hoping this will change. We are waiting for the go ahead for S1, S2 & S3 trips which are already signed up for. The decision has taken to cancel the seniors’ New York trip.
* We have almost 3000 Twitter followers and hope to reach this target by Christmas.
* We set up cycles to encourage pupils and staff to cycle the equivalent distance from the Clyde to Calcutta to raise money for the Beatson charity.
* In October we recognise Black History Month, and all departments are including relevant materials in their lessons where possible.
* COP26 – We have lots of plans for the next 2 weeks. Information will be out at the end of the week. It’s a very exciting time and the school is buzzing.
* Christmas Plans – We can’t get definite answers to what is allowed. We cannot bring parents in for the concert, so we may try an on-line concert. There are currently rehearsals going on for the school show “Matilda”.  We hope to perform to pupil audiences and maybe to parents around Easter. Our Senior Citizen lunch which we usually hold for approx 60 locals cannot go ahead again this year. Last year we prepared hampers to be distributed instead and will probably repeat this. We are not giving up.
* We are hoping to get another minibus. We need more than one because we are focusing on outdoor learning and are looking for a reputable sponsor to help pay for this.
* We have created our Values Garden at the front of the school. This has been planned for a number of years and we have now achieved this and it is officially opened. It’s a nice outdoor learning area with seating and working areas and an area where we are growing vegetables. The Tommy sculpture is in place and Remembrance classes have taken place in the gardens.
* A smaller than normal S3 Careers Fayre will be held on 9 November. We will have 10-15 guests during blocks 6 & 7. S3s will attend in groups.

Mrs Webb commented that the pupils are enjoying “Feel Good Friday”. Mr McLaughlin explained that this idea came from the Music department to raise moral, where pupils and staff sing from the central stairway to pupils in the social area having lunch. We also held a Wicked Wednesday for Halloween. This has been an alternative to the usual talent show as we cannot have crowds in the Assembly Hall. Credit goes to the Music Dept.

Mrs Webb asked is there are any plans for the S6s since the New York trips has been cancelled. Mr McLaughlin said nothing is in place yet, but this is being looked at. A possible trip to London or similar has been suggested and will be followed up.

The PTA Christmas Fayre won’t take place this year as restrictions mean we cannot have crowds into school.

Mrs Webb thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was brought to a close.

Next meeting: Date to be advised