

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 17Th JANUARY 2017

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION POINTS
Introduction & Welcome	Lindsey welcomed all to the meeting and also welcomed some senior students: Sarah Judge, Bethany Simpson and Kirsty Robertson.	
Apologies	Councillors, D Nelson and L Buchanan.	
Minutes last meeting	Minutes were checked and approved.	
Councillor Business	No councillors present tonight due to other schools commitments.	
Behaviour Management Graham Paris	<p>Thanked all for previous input and suggestions. Ongoing discussions with staff, parents etc. Where and how do we manage behaviour? Have had meetings with PTC's to discuss principles to base our policies on. GP asked group to take part in exercise to see what thoughts are on the following: 4 Activities were presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Principles – discuss • What do we do well – discuss • What do we need to improve on – what are your concerns? – discuss • What can we expect from parents to support school in managing behaviour – discuss <p>All worksheets were collected in and the Head Teacher thanked all for their time with this and advised the following next steps: Between now and August discussions will progress. Made some improvements but still some more to make. Group of staff have made some inroads and this will continue. CH, GP and two other staff with meet at Midlothian House soon to continue to take this forward. Systems are in place but need reviewed, updated and enhanced. More consultations will take place over next few months.</p>	
Head Teacher's Report	<p>HT's report was given out and a few items were discussed further. CAR reviews were effective and have given a good clarity on what needs to be improved in Modern Languages. External member of staff that was involved will come back into the school in May to further move forward. AH-K asked if this is available to view – CH advised this would not be useful in it's present form. LMcG – asked if Modern Languages were better staffed now, however CH said not at present. Social Studies – senior results always outstanding. Curriculum letter out this week on the changes in this. 1st February will hold an S2 into S3 Parents Information evening to discuss Coursing. School about to go into a change process where remits will be changed within the Guidance department. This is a formal process and the school has moved this on and this will move forward and the process will be complete by August 2017. The school will revert back to a 4 House system due to the size of the school roll. Website – Phil Owen from a Website Company has sent in a first draft of a new website and CH has returned this for further updating. CH thanked parents for the fundraising up till now some of which will go towards the new Website.</p>	

School building issue re flood and toilet issue. Also water availability around school. New contract will be out hopefully by April. Lack of maintenance regime has not helped but this is being turned around.

Parents Evenings – CH acknowledged difficulties in obtaining appointments in some Year Groups. SLT in discussions and there are 3 options mentioned in the report.

These need to be debated and decided on with staff, parents and students input sought. School has structured times that can be allocated through the School Calendar and what amount of evenings/hours can be expected of teachers.

FR asked if one extra hour on each Parent Evening would help. CH advised that teacher work 36 hour week and have 190 hours to be available over school year, 50 hours of which are allocated towards report writing, so times need to be spread over this working time agreement.

SJ commented that as a parent she would like to have as much information via teachers to help her child make the best choices going through the school.

CH advised that school roll is almost full for both S1 and S2 therefore numbers are large and very challenging situation to see all parents and some parents are being disappointed.

MS asked if a more detailed report could go home then appointments could be made over and above. Previous feedbacks, on fuller reports from teachers, have changed this recently however this can be further discussed.

LMcG – when teachers don't follow up via e-mail when appointments are not available is frustrating. Follow up information to advise parents if there are no appointments available and why this is.

AH-K – could the system be set for some students (by teachers) if the teacher highlighted they wanted to see the parent? CH unsure if system is sophisticated enough to do this.

Could there be something on Reports to flag up to parent if teacher wanted to see a child?

Comments that parents do also want to see teachers where there are no concerns and/or if their child is doing well.

Maths slightly understaffed which contributes to this issue – next session they should be slightly over.

English is fully staffed at present.

Questioned raised regarding Science due to staffing. This is being resolved a bit by appointment of Ms Taylor, however have lost the 2 NQT's this year.

N5 Maths question - A lot of S4 re-sitting as they failed last year, why? CH advised that Nationally Maths have a lower pass rate. School sits okay against our virtual comparator schools.

CH discussed the issue of smokers around and outside school. Not helped by the size of the school and the issue is that we are very public with this building. This is being addressed and the HT is out at break-time and lunchtime. The school had prioritised inside the school for a while which left the outside less manned.

Student recently excluded when they would not extinguish a cigarette and return into school.

Some of these students disengage verbally which aggravates these situations. Warnings, detentions, parental meetings and exclusions are all used to try to engage with the students. We are also trying to educate and offer "cessation help". Students often refuse this help as they indicate they are happy to continue.

NHS could also come into the school to offer workshops? However there needs to be a willingness by the student to accept this.

Is there funding to bring in police? Not really unfortunately. There is a Midlothian Policy where smoking is not allowed on Midlothian property however this is very difficult to enforce.

Where do we "stand" with the legal aspect of this as the law states you must be 18. CH - The school has a community police officer who is on site at different times during the week. However we cannot comment of how the police address this.

CH asked Senior students what their experiences through PSE are with discussions on Health & Wellbeing. Students commented that it happens in S1, S2 and diminishes through S3.

Comments that many students smoke at entrance of the building throughout the school day, are often seen to be late to school because of this.

Should "fines" by police not be introduced to students who drop cigarette butts? CH cannot comment on this. We are very open to community so this is "seen" to be a big issue. School concerned and more work to be done to try to reduce this drastically.

Drug concerns:

Concern from parents about drugs on sale within school.

CH commented that education of students is ongoing through PSE. Many people have sought out SLT to highlight this issue and CH is thankful of this.

When the school has specific information on evidence and usage we always involve the police immediately.

Staff are very proactive on looking for signs if students appear to be under the influence of substances. CH attended the PSP as we wanted to send out messages that there are consequences of this. We will highlight these messages and educate students directly on supplying, buying or being under the influence of drugs through Assemblies.

CH discussed other potential approaches with assistance from the police and these will be investigated further.

New "crime-stoppers" for young people being launched to give a confidential route for people to highlight any concerns. Head Office are happy for us to progress with these measures and perhaps others. Publicity can help reduce what comes in through the school. Safety of all students is paramount and mutual respect needs to be promoted.

Peers may be effective to discuss at Assembly or through PSE. Has been effective in the past in other schools and needs to be rolled out to other schools within Midlothian. There are students who support in S1. S Judge highlighted that students are genuinely afraid to pass on information as they don't want to be seen as a "grass". The school does get a lot of information but some is quite unspecific. Most students are offended by this behaviour as well. However this is an issue within the Bonnyrigg Community at this time as well as break-ins and other thefts. Perhaps Sgt Lindsey could come to talk to the Parent Council.

Fundraising update – Fiona Robertson	Funds very low due to all the donations and areas the Parent Council have supported this year. Need a fund raising push again starting with the Bingo Night on 24 th February. Please support in whatever way you can.	
AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on totem pole bench – to be installed in February break • Uniform policy for S1-S3 (blazers) – to be carried forward • Availability of drugs in the school – discussed above • Smoking outside the school – discussed above • Parents night booking system and lack of promised follow up by some departments – discussed above • Conabor update, continued discrepancies – further discussions needed 	

E-mail contacts for information:

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**Next Meeting date Thursday 9th March 2017 –
at 19.00 Lasswade High School – Conference Room**