



Biggar High School Parent Council- July 15th, 2020

Present: Sue Hope, Robert Stewart (Head Teacher), Kirsty Campbell (Vice Chair), Rosslyn Thomson, Cllr Ian McCallan.

Apologies : Flora Neville, Kate Allister, Clare Waters, Wendy Johnstone, Chrissy Wild

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1) Welcome		
2) Headteachers Update	<p>Robert was asked for an update of the Recovery Plan for August- Currently in a state of 'limbo'; the Education Recovery Group will report to First Minister on 30th July and new Guidance will hopefully be given shortly after.</p> <p>As to what the new "normal" will be RS is unsure. At present as we have just started to experience the easing of "lockdown" it will all depend on the situation as it develops over the next couple of weeks. If the "R" rate stays low, it would be hoped that students would all return to full time education.</p> <p>Main concern at the moment is now adult staff safety. Unions etc are in talks at the moment with ERG and are sharing concerns.</p>	

	<p>If the students return full time they would start back to normal timetables and staff will be encouraged to kept as safe as they possibly can following national guidance.</p> <p>One area still of concern is Transport. At present approx. only 12 students would be allowed on a 52-seater bus, but if the distancing rules change this would have a positive impact on numbers. Would the students require masks? Again, Robert is awaiting further information and the situations is fluid and developing. RS will update as soon as possible.</p> <p>Before Summer Break one classroom per subject was 'changed' to fit the 50/50 teaching model but changing the classrooms is on hold at present until we see how the situation develops.</p> <p>If students go back full time it is possible there would be 2 Inservice days to get everything set up .</p> <p>Robert is checking regularly with school deliveries/maintenance etc. to ensure that the school is ready for August.</p> <p>Robert and staff are prepared if it is 50/50 model or all students are back. There will be some implications either way, but Robert is confident that all involved will be ready.</p> <p>Sue from the Youth Project has been in touch with Robert to discuss rule/ guidelines etc. Robert has shared that the Youth Project should take the same approach re. protecting staff. There was a short discussion re. whether students would be able to go</p>	
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	<p>out of school at lunchtime. Robert shared that he believed that this would be necessary especially if all children return due to the sheer volume of numbers and the reduction of canteen capacity based on social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Kirsty asked if re transport – will there be enough time to get everything organised from end July for the start of term on the 2nd Aug?</p> <p>Robert shared that SLC have been trying to assess the situation re capacity of buses, number of buses required and available etc over the past few weeks. Robert is waiting to be updated and is presuming that SLC is also waiting till they receive information from central government.</p> <p>Shielding both children and carers – what is the situation re. this? Robert stated that this is dependent on the recommendations of central government. Robert will email all parents in early August to confirm the situation with children, carers, and staff re. shielding. These children would be given priority for home learning and for support from the school as much as possible.</p> <p>If an extra day Inservice – this would mean 13th August start? Yes</p> <p>Sue asked if face covering etc. is to become the norm going forward? Robert suggested that possibly they are may be occasions where teachers may need to be required to wear face coverings, however, this is an ongoing situation. It is about minimizing the risk especially to adults and there are still a large area of issues to be investigated and discussed but the guidance</p>	
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	<p>to be issued on the 30th should provide clarification and a starting point for proper planning.</p> <p>Sue asked what the situation would be if there were localised outbreaks or spikes? Would it be on a school by school basis or cluster area?</p> <p>Robert suggested that the response would be looked at by area/ by schools, but not something council wide and it would probably be more localised, but this would depend on the nature and location(s) of the 'spike(s)'.</p> <p>Re Transport – Ian stated that the council has a good grip on this situation, but again SLC are waiting on the national guidance coming out to move forward on this subject.</p> <p>Re Outbreaks/spikes - Ian said that hopefully that there will not be too dramatic a situation re spikes etc and that he is confident that SLC has plans in place and various options available but is waiting on guidance.</p> <p>It was discussed that the Scottish Government seems keen to get everything back to normal as soon as possible re schooling and education.</p>	
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<p>3) Grants</p>	<p>Sue stated that at present there are a huge amount of Covid-19 grants with many of these are related to Mental Health. The criteria are wide and varied and we need to prove that we apply for something that is extra to what would be offered by the Council – possibly additional support that can be offered.</p> <p>Deadlines possibly into September (so that staff can assess where support would be best applied to and for when they return in August). Sue stated that we would have to be specific and relate this to mental health to encourage inclusion and involvement . It maybe Youth Work related. Robert stated that many of the areas we would/should be accessed through SLC and the equity fund available. Sue asked if Robert could give her 5 different project that would aid recovery of the school, she would be happy to move forward with looking at grants that maybe able to apply. Robert will do this.</p> <p>Robert and Sue discussed possible interactions between BHS and local community enterprises such as Healthy Valleys and CCI moving forward</p>	<p><i>SH</i> <i>RS</i></p>
<p>4) Support for Parent Council</p>	<p>At present there is nothing specific that PC could help with the School now. Robert is planning to take pupils & families on a walk round to help alleviate concerns late July/ early August.. Robert will chat with Flora re. a small video re the Parent Council.</p> <p>Possibly catch up with another meeting perhaps 3rd or 4th of August if Sue could host again</p>	<p><i>RS</i></p> <p><i>SH</i></p>

<p>5) staff</p>	<p>All staff are in place. New Physics teacher who is really keen and has already been into School. Also end of July Robert will be in touch will all shielding teachers and will review the situation with each of them individually.</p> <p>If 2m rule in place Support staff will not be able to go back to normal so this will need to be looked at</p> <p>Homework Guardian – this facility is ongoing and should be up and running by early Septyember after set up tasks have been completed. This system tells parents on a Friday what homework is due/done and required.</p>	
<p>6) Subgroup Minutes</p>	<p>Wendy stated that there were minutes from this meeting. Can we chase this.</p> <p>Wendy sent these out later.</p>	
<p>7) Next meeting date</p>	<p>3rd or 4th of July 2020 7pm Sue to host again.</p>	
	<p>If there is anything that there is in the community that they want to publish to get in touch with Robert and he can send out an email.</p> <p>Ian asked if there was anything that we wished to take forward – nothing at present.</p>	

