



Biggar High School Parent Council- April 27th 2021

Present: Robert Stewart (Head Teacher), Flora Neville (Chair) Kirsty Campbell (Vice-Chair), Julie Forrest (Secretary) , Wendy Johnstone, Sue Hope, Cllr McAllan, Chrissy Wild, Kate Allister, Kirsty Lawrie. Lesleyanne McCaskie

Apologies: Rosslyn Thomson

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1) Minutes of previous meeting	Agreed	
2) Head Teachers Update	<p>Pupils now all back full time and happy to return. So far, during term times, school has remained covid free and everyone continues to follow all appropriate safety procedures. Robert noted it was great that the whole school is back together, especially for everyone’s health and wellbeing, but all have to be mindful not to be too relaxed about keeping staying vigilant to the guidance and to stay safe.</p> <p>Health & Safety – no longer requirement for 2m distancing, but everyone is being encouraged to observe social distancing where possible in and around school. At break children are encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible. S1-S6 all taking part in Lateral Flow Testing- vast majority are being issued with kits provided and only a handful of pupils have noted that they do not want to</p>	

	<p>participate. Robert noted that testing could continue up until summer then will be re-evaluated after that. All pupils are issued with three set kit boxes on a fortnightly basis. Testing regime issued for the Sunday/ Wednesday/ Sunday cycle. School chasing up outstanding consent forms.</p> <p>Senior Assessments – first set of class assessments will be finished by Friday. Feedback will be given and final set of assessments will begin mid-May. Robert suggested that it may be a good idea to have/offer an open evening for senior phase pupil parents to access a “Question and Answer” Session. This was agreed.</p> <p>Teen Talk – there is now a counselling service in for three days per week offering up to 15 sessions to pupils requiring support/ access to this service.</p> <p>Pupil support doing some work on catch up with pupils who require this in relation to general well-being support.</p> <p>Pupil Equity Fund money – RS is looking at using 2 members of staff to look at supporting disengaged students re. attendance and course work progress.</p> <p>‘Preparatory Budgeting’ – RS noted that this budget is directed at community and stakeholders to have a direct say in 5% of our PEF budget (to be decided by stakeholders/ school community). RS suggested that it would be good if a Parent Council member were involved (in addition to liaising with pupil representatives). The amount in question is approx. £2500. SH agreed to do this.</p> <p>Canteen meals – There is currently a Scot Gov focus on reducing fat and salt. There have been a few complaints about the portion sizes after the main meal pricing went up in April. RS will keep an eye on this.</p>	<p><i>FN to create Zoom link</i></p>
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	<p>Writer Brian Conaghan has been ‘adopted’ as our ‘school author’. He will become more involved with the school shortly and will visit/ link in with school a minimum of once each term from August.</p> <p>Stellar Omada – business partnership – working with pupils over the next 3-4 weeks.</p> <p>School Improvement Plan – this will focus on :- Continuity of Learning, Equity, and Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Options process nearly complete. New timetable should be in place by mid-June P7 transitions – there will be no 3-day visits, but the school can possibly offer single school visits. These visits will not be similar to usual but will at least allow for a visit to the school before August start. The remote Blast Off To Biggar’ transition work is going well and Pupil Support remote meets will take place in May as well.</p> <p>The children requiring additional supported transition visits have been identified.</p> <p>A significant number of new S1’s has been identified as having a literacy weakness or dyslexia concerns.</p>	
<p>3) Discussion/questions</p>	<p>How are staff coping? RS noted staff coping well and happy to be back to a sense of ‘normality’ with all pupils back in classes.</p> <p>SQA – quality evidence needed under ‘controlled settings’. RS noted that pressure on staff to set. mark, judge and inform pupil grades is challenging. Is there any way that we as a Parent Council can help communicate to the parents to help ease the assessment process? RS noted that an initial briefing letter went out to parents- letter and assessment diary went out and this will be replicated for the May/ June assessments. Senior pupils know all the information</p>	

	<p>required as they are the main contact for information- relayed through PSE Google Classrooms. Calendar for May/June assessments will be going out week beginning 3/5 with additional information. Possibly hold a Zoom meeting as a session (questions in advance if possible) 10th May- questions by 6th May (see previous)</p> <p>Regarding Mental Health of children – recent S3 report/ audit undertaken via PE shows the main area of concern for BHS pupils seems to be ‘appearance’. Actions based on the report? RS only got the report end of last week- findings will be looked at and headline messages/ actions taken on through PSE programme and any other appropriate channels. This will be built into the School Improvement Plan</p> <p>Wellbeing – An individual concern over racism- this has ben dealt with sensitively and appropriately with the victim who has been positively supported by the school. Could there be a wider discussion regarding racism/ racist incidents taking this forward?</p> <p>RS noted that school’s first port of call is always education. PSE has a great deal of information to disseminate and this is done through workshop based learning. Topic discussed- agreed that there is a lot the school does regarding education regarding racism. It was suggested maybe looking at bringing in some workshops regarding this subject.</p> <p>Home learning- everything up until spring break being posted on Google Classrooms but now that we are back request that teachers continue to post all learning materials on line for parent/ pupils to access at home as and when required. Robert shared that he would message staff tomorrow to remind all where relevant to continue to post lesson materials on remote learning classrooms as much as possible.</p>	<p><i>Possibly fundraise for workshops</i></p> <p><i>RS to memo teaching staff 21/4</i></p>
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<p>4) Fundraising</p>	<p>Re WIFI – fundraisers seem to be reluctant to support this in school.</p> <p>National Lottery have opened up funding for wider community benefits.</p> <p>Local Legacy that the school could possibly approach up to £5k.</p> <p>Possible with Covid recovery that we may be able to get something to help with WIFI.</p> <p>There are several funds coming online to help community group.</p> <p>We could possibly look at registering as a charity? SH to look at this option and bring back at a further meeting. It was agreed that it would be worth looking into this and gathering more information. KC has some relevant information leaflets and will forward to SH.</p> <p>KC suggested sending letters asking for donations from various Windfarm funds. Discussion regarding what to ask for. CW to send out e-mails to see if we can raise any funds for additional items.</p>	
<p>5) AOCB</p>	<p>Transitions – is there anything we can do to aid with this? Robert suggested an open night (Q&A) with Parent Council there to offer support and guidance at some point in the last term, possibly early to mid-June.</p> <p>There are presently 20 ‘feeder’ schools with a number of placing requests from out with the area. Robert to come back with possible dates at next meeting.</p> <p>ASN Date? Possible tie down all the dates. Robert suggested that after the AGM to do the ASN (2nd Week June) & P7 Transition (1st week June).</p>	

AGM Speaker? Things of interest – changing world of employment, University life changes. It was agreed to invite former pupil who heads up Stellar Omada and is working in partnership with school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: currently BHS does not run this Scheme. WJ suggested that it should be added to a future agenda to see if there is anything, we can do to support introducing the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme to the school. RS noted that the ‘expedition’ element had always been problematic but he would be back in touch with Wiston Lodge to look at expedition packages once the present covid situation has eased further

RS confirmed that money had been allocated for an Ocean Youth Trip and hopefully this will be rescheduled at some point in the future.

School of Rugby should hopefully be back in August. The school is currently discussing with the Biggar Rugby Club how to organise this.

Newsletter – Flora has completed her bio. Cllr McAllan is happy to write the next bio with WJ writing her bio after that.

Parents App: There hasn’t been any posts in a while. KC asked what the future plans are for the app? The cost is £600 p .a and needs to be used effectively.

RS confirmed that it should be used primarily as a PC tool to communicate and adding another way in which to communicate to the Parent Forum. KC to email CB regarding training. Further discussion will be needed to assess future commitment required by PC members towards the app.

KC asked when trips could be restarted realistically? RS shared that it is too early to be certain. There may be some opportunity for local trips, but it is unlikely any trips for the next school year 21/22.

	<p>Email Distribution List? KC has been contacted on messenger regarding updating emails.</p> <p>NOTE from JF: The email list was distributed a few months back. JF has not been contacted regarding any change of emails, or with any new member email- no e-mail address for KL, CC or LMcC. JF sends minutes out to those who attend meeting regularly.</p> <p>P7 transitions – it was agreed that there would be a representative of the Parent Council on the zoom meeting for the P7 parents. RS will confirm date at AGM.</p> <p>On behalf of the PC and BHS we would like to offer thanks to Cllr McAllan for helping to resolve the issues regarding the Himalayas Trip refund.</p>	
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- **Next PC Meeting is Tuesday 25th May AGM 2021 Zoom Meeting at 7pm**