



Biggar High School Parent Council- August 30th 2021

Present: Robert Stewart (Head Teacher); Flora Neville (Chair); Kirsty Campbell (Vice-Chair); Clare Waters (Secretary); Wendy Johnstone; Rosslyn Thomson; Kate Allister; Sue Hope; Chrissy Wild; Stuart Crighton; Pauline Lynch; Karen Lawrie.

Apologies: Cllr I McAllan

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1) Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes agreed	
2) Head Teachers Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk Assessments re safety in school <p>Mitigations in place still ongoing- Test and Protect now have locus for track and trace, not the school. Some cases now evident- community transmission and a significant minority also involved in self isolation until PCR tests are taken before safe return to school if negative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staffing <p>Welcome new staff to Physics, Art and Geography. Equity monies uses to identify staff to support pupils who are disengaged or learning is interrupted.</p>	

	<p>Plans in place but some staffing absences are slowing progress of this at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ SQA awards <p>school happy with overall performance of pupils and progress against expectation- only 5 appeals lodged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ S1 <p>settled in well- induction processes ran smoothly and all are adapting to mitigations in place to keep all safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Library <p>School librarian seconded to work at Hamilton. Presently without a service in school but hope to find a replacement soon . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Equity <p>RS noted that pupils/ parents would no longer have to pay for key materials in Home Ec/ Tech/ Art and this would be covered from a central grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ PE <p>New surface laid over the summer- much more user friendly 3G and pupils already enjoying its use . . .</p>	
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<p>3) Discussion</p>	<p>1) What will be happening for Parental Consultations this year? – KA</p> <p>RS advised awaiting SLC advice as how to proceed based on updated government risk assessments. RS has asked SLC to investigate ‘bespoke’ remote platforms to use for parent consultations.</p> <p>RS expects there will be no formal face to face contact with parents in larger gatherings before Christmas. School has decision to make re. individual meetings and advice is to keep this remote where possible- either video link or phone call.</p> <p>Parents’ evenings to be added to next time agenda.</p> <p>2) SQA</p> <p>RS advised secondary schools will probably revert to exam diet in the summer 2022 based on most recent SQA update but this will be dictated by ongoing impact of covid on attendance and ability of senior pupils to make suitable course progress.</p> <p>3) Treasurer’s update</p> <p>CW advised treasury update at AGM is still current position. FN chasing RBS regarding access to the bank accounts; forms with the bank.</p> <p>4) Isolation advice</p> <p>RS re-iterated advice that If a child’s lateral flow test is positive, then they should self-isolate until a PCR test is completed and result known. If negative, children should return to school. New nasal swab tests to be issued soon within the</p>	<p><i>FN to add to agenda for Sept.</i></p>
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	<p>school once stocks of the old LFTs are exhausted. RS will issue new tests to S1 immediately as they are less 'intrusive'.</p>	
<p>4) Discussion from Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS noted that teachers will be asked to check that all pupils have been invited to their Google Classrooms. Class and homework materials will be posted by teachers. Isolating children should message class teachers or contact PSE teacher to liaise over any work posted on Google Classroom where there is a lack of understanding. • Some clubs are due to start w/c 6th Sept. Details on pupil newsletter. Numbers of pupils attending will be monitored to ensure appropriate social distancing. RS noted that year group Google Classroom 'Noticeboards' are being set up as another way of informing pupils of various events in and around school. • A virtual dance show could be possible- RS discussing with senior pupils and Active Schools. Also discussing format for Young Musician. • SH asked are pupils allowed in at lunchtimes? RS advised children are allowed to eat their hot meals inside. However, all children are encouraged to be outside or up the street between 1:00 – 1:40 pm. Bubble spaces for each year group continue to be allocated within the school for adverse weather. RS noted that in reasonable weather pupils were safer outside in well ventilated space but that this would be kept under review. There had been no representation from any pupils up until now concerning this guidance • Careers and Development RS advised the school had received a £14,000 grant for Developing Young Workforce. Within the next two weeks decisions will be made as to how best to use the grant. (Awaiting new member of staff to be allocated to the role) • KC enquired about Biggar High Schools performance in tabloid report league tables. RS responded that often league tables can be misleading as they only look at 1 single indicator. Data collected against virtual comparator due to be released in September through the Insight 	<p><i>RS to provide update at next meeting</i></p>

	<p>programme will provided a more accurate account of the school's current position- both at whole school and subject level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Council meetings to move back to a Monday evening. • Fundraising ideas- a range of ideas were discussed around fundraising. Key points were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do we wish to make the Parent Council a registered charity or start a charity associated with the PC? SH to put together an outline of the pros and cons of becoming a charity. ○ For members to investigate ways in which parents, businesses etc. can support the PC as an organisation, i.e., "Recycling for good causes" where people can donate items and the PC / School will receive 75% of the proceeds of the donations. ○ CW discussed that parents may to just donate to the school or give an annual pledge. It was agreed that the 'Just Giving' page should be progressed. ○ RS to provide some suggestions of items we may wish to purchase to promote on the Just Giving page. Initial suggestion was for £500 for art frames to display pupils work in school and around the town. ○ RS to create a draft Google Form to send to parents asking for their opinions on how we should fund raise money, how we should spend the money etc. ○ KL suggested sending a pledge out to businesses asking them for their assistance in supporting their local area. RS asked FN to access Community Action Plan group database for business contacts. In addition, FN suggested contacting Business Gateway in Lanarkshire. 	<p><i>SH to action</i></p> <p><i>RS to action</i></p> <p><i>RS to action</i></p> <p><i>KC to action</i></p>
<p>5) AOCB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The standard homework text states that homework is either 'not completed' or 'not completed to a high enough standard'. Please could the texts be separated as a parental to each comment could be very different. RS agreed these should be sent as two separate texts and will look to action this with office staff in due course. RS also invited parents 	<p><i>RS to action</i></p>

	<p>to check the Guardian email where it should be clear which comment the text refers to as any homework not completed at all will be indicated on this weekly bulletin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WJ asked the school to be mindful of children who are finding the return after lockdown particularly stressful and may be struggling. She requested that assistance is offered to those parents. RS asked any parent who may have issues to contact the PSE teacher directly to discuss. <p>RS also noted that SQA course items removed for senior pupils in the last session will continue to be removed for the current session. This he hopes will relieve some of the pressure and allow pupils to concentrate on key skills and give more time to ensure consolidation and full course completion..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Covid-19 cases rise at Biggar High School, RS advised we may face possible staffing issues, both in relation to Covid and PCR testing absence. • FN had spoken to a couple of the local businesses who wanted to pass on their thanks and appreciation to the pupils of the High School who continually uphold the rules of face coverings, hand sanitising etc. All children were well behaved and respectful. • ASN - FN has been in contact with Call Scotland and is meeting with them to discuss funding / offerings. • ASN meeting planned for 13th September details to follow. • KA to pass on details of Mind mapping course to FN. • Dyslexia Scotland conference to be held on 1st Oct. Workshop on supporting wellbeing etc. see website for details. • RS to send flowers to JF on behalf of Biggar High school and Parent Council 	<p><i>KA to action</i></p> <p><i>RS to action ©</i></p>
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- **Next PC Meeting is Zoom Meeting at 7pm**