

Biggar High School Parent Council Meeting

13th December 2021

Attendees: Christina Wild, Flora Neville, Sue Hope, Wendy Johnson, Kate Alistair, Robert Stewart, Katie Mellanby,

Apologies: Kirstine Campbell, Karen Lawrie,

Minutes:

Charitable status:

- If we go down the route of constituting ourselves as a charity, we need to have the parent forum backing.
- Support from the parent forum is key to keeping the charity status running.
- Agreed to do survey around the parent forum

Clerk application:

- No feedback as yet.
- Sharon will help if we're stuck.

Future meetings

- Desire to meet face to face to event plan but we will move this to the Jan / Feb discussion for future discussion.

Action update from the last meeting:

Current Covid situation:

- Updates to risk assessment changes coming through a few times a day. Rule is anyone with a covid virus in a household needs to isolate regardless of PCR or lateral flow.
- Implications are on a day-to-day basis, particularly around staffing.
- Awaiting updated guidance on any early closure.
- Events have been cancelled – rugby match, netball match, coffee mornings etc.
- Prelims are to continue based on current guidance. Further information expected from SQA on the possible stages of guidance related to exams.
- Government direction is to try and keep schools open as long as possible.
- Discussion around blended learning and the requirement to have a greater level of coordination at a higher level. No answers at present but agreement that this needs to be taken forward.
- Question from parent forum that if teachers have to isolate, what are we putting place to ensure that the teaching can continue. Need to know how this can progress.
 - Current process is for the teacher to post the information into the google classroom and the substitute teacher manages the class using the materials in the online classroom.
 - Discussion around whether there is a communication requirement to detail out the steps that would be taken if their teachers were to be off. As we're in face to face teaching mode at the moment we will continue with the above process but at the moment we're going day to day.

Staffing

- 2x Home Economics teachers due to start in Jan,
- New Librarian due to start.
- New Chemistry teacher due to start in Jan.

- Modern Studies gap in provision. Options continue to be looked at.

School Cloud

- Parents evening model – general feedback has been that having that engagement was good but 5 minutes wasn't potentially long enough.

Exam / Study Preparation.

- Additional support sessions in place for pupils who need to focus on gaps in learning. Parent feeling that this has been positively received by pupils based on the discussion of the group.
- Mindfulness experiences organised to support decompression
- Study planning sessions being looked at.

Cleaning Staff

- Adverts have been posted and the expectation is that the jobs should be filled for January.
- Concern that there could be a delay so focus continues to be applied to ensure proper cleaning is provided.
- Update to confirmed at next meeting.

Dress Code

- Improved update in uniform adherence.
- Objective remains for pupils to adhere to the dress code and change before and after PE.

Carry over Actions for next month

- Mental Health Recovery Stream – Sue to get in touch with Robert for discussion.
- Bike-ability – Robert to chase SLC as to whether there is an appointment that can support.
- Brief required for Parent Council Clerk position as this links to the Charitable Status requirement. Action Robert.
- Spike Aware – Something that will be looked at in February / March time.