

# Biggar High School Parent Council Meeting

## 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Attendees: Christina Wild, Flora Neville, Sue Hope, Nicki Whitehouse, Jan Davies, Wendy Johnson, Robert Stewart, Kate Alistair, Katie Mellanby, Kirsty,

Apologies: Rosslyn Thomson, Karen Lawrie,

**Next meeting is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It will be in person but Zoom link will also be available.**

Minutes:

Covid update

- Masks in class can be removed.
- CO2 levels in class being monitored
- Assembly rules are being relaxed so we're able to resume Celebrating Success.
- Social events are now allowed so Ceilidhs/ Social Dances are being looked at.
- High level of Covid absence amongst staff just before half term but now settled..
- As of tomorrow, we'll go back to normal timetable so juniors and seniors will have full class times as the rules re. avoiding congestion have been relaxed.

Curriculum

- Prelims complete.
- Additional ways to support senior pupils being looked at to see how they can be supported in the weeks and months ahead.
- Google forms have been issued to senior pupils asking what additional support they would like.
- So far, no significant requests looking for support with study planning or exam anxiety.
- SIMD 1&2/ FME attendance levels are up versus previous years. Gap between pupils between SIMD 1&2/FME and SIMD 3-10 has narrowed.
- Eco Group looking at recycling plastic bottles, setting up bird feeders and creating composting bin. Work on green house and litter picking will begin when weather improves. Fashion swap club still working well one lunchtime each week.
- DofE Bronze group is progressing in skills in preparation for their expedition.
- Mural has gone up in the school which was the prize for input into COP26 ☺
- Ocean Youth Trust are taking a 5 day sail up the West Coast and 8-10 identified pupils are being put forward to take part.
- Inset day – Staff training on LGBTQ+ awareness being an inclusive school. In support of the Rights Respecting Schools agenda, with more work to be undertaken on this in May/ June
- Catchment widened for primary schools coming to Biggar High. Up to 18 schools involved next session.
- 3 day visit coming up with renewed focus (now that restrictions on visits have been lifted) on additional visit for ASN kids in case they need additional support.

Just Giving Crowdfunding

- Updated wish list to be sent to Robert for updating – **Action CW/ RS**
- Promotion of the Just Giving Crowd Funding page – we need to make sure it represents what the need is. i.e. a specialist coming in to do something that we need like a block of activity like Mindfulness sessions, drum sessions etc.
- **Action CW to circulate to the audience on the meeting and agree by email before the next meeting.**

- Nicki W can teach Microscopy and has offered her support to do a session with students as well as supporting the purchase of microscopes.

#### Higher PE Prelim

- Parent raised that PE theory assessment results have been poor and was looking to see what intervention would be taken.
- Robert confirmed that he is collating all the results from all departments of all subjects to see what the overall results are and what subsequent interventions need to be taken.
- Advice from Robert is to encourage pupils to use the Google form to ask for support to help him arrange what additional support is required.
- Supported study codes available but the pupils have to ask the teacher for them. Request was made for the codes be given to the kids so they don't have to ask. **Action: Robert to look at how to make these could be more accessible.**

#### ASN

- Parent wanted to thank the staff for the support & quick responses from the departments as needed.

#### Encouraging update of support

- Could the Parent Council share some anonymous examples of where support has been helpful to encourage / inform parents how best to access school support. **Action: Parent Council Members.**

#### Community Engagement

- Discussion over the possibility of looking at how the community gardening groups and the school gardening groups could link.
- Discussion over how we can raise awareness in the community of all the good work that students are doing within the school in groups such as the Eco Group.

#### Survey Monkey

- We need to engage with parent forum to confirm what we should be asking and how we should be framing it with view to moving to charitable status.
- Survey should say
  - that we're considering moving to charitable status
  - for and against points.
  - Would you support this yes / no
  - Would you be part of a committee?
  - Would you come to meetings?
- Sue would draft some questions / points to help with the above. **Action Sue.**

#### Bikeability

- Update for next meeting as no feedback.

#### Mental Health Recovery Stream

- **Action Robert and Sue to meet**

#### Film Club

- Pupils interested in a film making club.
- Wendy confirmed that there could be some tie in with some film making kit she had secured for a Lowther project. It could be used for the Youth Project as well.

## Parent Council Clerk

- Minute taking
- Making Bookings
- Salary £7.20 / hour. Paid for 10 meetings per year for 6 hours.
- **Please spread the word.**

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