

Minute of Perth High School Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 26th January 2017

Present: Caroline Clos, Iain Collin, Steve Elliott, Katherine Farmer, Derek Goodwin, John Harper, Stephen Kelly-Barton, Frank Lynch, Anne McElnea, Louise McGregor, Gillian McGuire, Linda McMurchie, Thirza Pupillo, Susan Wightman, Susan Brown, Penny Cox, Emma Smith

Apologies: Jenny Ballantyne, Steven Duncan, Jackie Halawi, Philippe Lacoux, Louise Lockhart, Jeannine McVean, Graeme Milne, Mary Shrimpton, Lorraine Tomb, Sylvia Wallace, Karen Boyce

In Attendance: Colin Murray (DHT), Virginia Neilson (PT Maths)

1. Minute of Meeting of 29 November 2016

The Minute of the meeting of 29 November was approved by the group

2. Guest Speaker – Colin Murray & Virginia Neilson – Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

Colin gave an overview of the strategies of DYW group. The main points discussed were:

- **The landscape is emphasising more flexibility with traditional qualifications – introducing vocational and college courses with our partnership with Perth College.**
- **Asking pupils what is it they want to see and what type of subjects they would like to see in the options structure.**
- **Pupils wishing to undertake work experience – trying to make the work places more targeted so that pupils get somewhere relevant to their career path.**
- **Identifying more Business Ambassadors who have a personal connection to PHS and securing their involvement in this initiative.**
- **Pupils can gain work experience either with the help of the school or self-found work experience. Risk assessments have to take place first and the placement is categorised as High, Medium or Low. If a workplace has a high risk then PKC Health & Safety would have to visit and assess. If medium then a member of school staff can assess. If low then the pupil can attend the work place without an assessment.**
- **Work experience can be as flexible as necessary. The work experience can also be classed as one of the pupil's subjects.**

Timetable Model

The timetable set up has proven to not be as efficient as we would like. 3 options of different day structures were shown to groups of pupils, parents and staff. Within each meeting the feedback given showed that Version 1.1 was most preferred. It was felt that Personal Support wasn't working the way it was intended. Break times were either too long or too short. There were a few issues to be considered with all of the versions:

- Issues with lunchtime timings
- Issues with transport (bus contracts)

Tayside Contracts were consulted about this due to the working hours of the catering staff; and the preferred option was approved from their side.

Pupil assemblies will be held with a presentation of FAQ's being read out. Parents will receive letters explaining all of this information to them.

3. Matters arising from last meeting

- Communications Plan– a Groupcall about the App has been sent out. TP to check with Mr Mackie about the number of people who have downloaded the App. A mini-card to be made up to put out on Parents Evenings with communication details. **Action: Thirza Pupillo**

4. Updates from Head Teacher

Staffing

- PT Art & Design recruited – N Ross
- PT DET – interviews next week (6 candidates)
- Drama vacancy
- English maternity cover vacancy

Living Communities

- Thirza informed the group that the school had secured a bid of £1200 which can be spent on the display of the school.
- Complaints from residents around the school – a pupil group called Viewlands Ventures are organising litter picks in the immediate vicinity around the school in an attempt to improve neighbour relations. Andy McAdam will oversee this and organise House groups.

No issues re budget.

5. Perth High School Facilities Update

- DET works are now moving on to the next phase. Classes are to be moved around but planned in such a way to cause the least disruption.
- Home Economics dept. - improvement works are being planned.

6. Communication

School App is a daily communication source

- Groupcall sent about the PHS App to promote usage.
- Parent Council page on the website to have more detail. A separate PHS PC section of the school website is to be re-established and the most recent year's minutes are to be uploaded. All future minutes are to be uploaded. **Action: Thirza Pupillo (via Abbie or Lisa)**
- The section in the School Handbook on the Parent Council is to be re-evaluated and then uploaded onto the website. John Harper would supply appropriate text. **Action: John Harper**
- Send minutes to Abbie (Library) to be put on the website.

- It was agreed that a version of the School Calendar with more detail about the events being highlighted would be useful for parents. Action: Thirza Pupillo to consider.

7. AOCB

There was a discussion around the parking after school hours around the Sports Hall and Service Entrance. TP to get in touch with ECS Lets. **Action: Thirza Pupillo**

There are Headteachers meetings which take place every term. TP handed out sheets given out at this meeting for those present to look at.

The meeting concluded.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7pm