



**Minutes of Perth High School**

**Parent Council & PTA**

**7.00pm – 19 January 2022**

Present: Grant Wooler (Chair); Susan Morrison (Secretary); Caroline McEwen (Joint Treasurer); Sam Pettigrew (Joint Treasurer); Paula Collin (PTA); Martin Shaw (Headteacher); Tom Jamieson (Depute Head); Susan Brown; Alison Drylie; Steve Elliot; Ruth Fowler; Tony Fry; Rob Jarvis; Ailsa McLellan; Rebecca McSherry; Gail Meek; Graeme Milne; Bruce Renfrew; Bill Russell; Dave Shenton; Angela Shepherd; Merrick Whyte; and Jill Young.

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome by Chair</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Jodie Saunders and Mike Swan.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising</b></p> <p>Two amendments had been noted for the previous minutes. The first was accepted but the other deemed not appropriate. It was noted that if any items were out with the remit of the Parent Council or the School, it should be up to the individual raising the item to take it forward through the appropriate channels.</p> <p>The minutes were then approved by Gail Meek and seconded by Rob Jarvis and Sam Pettigrew.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Items carried forward from previous meeting agenda</b></p>
a.	<p><u>Petitioning to remove masks for our children</u></p> <p>This is not a school-based decision however attention was drawn to speculation on the BBC Scotland webpage that mask wearing may be relaxed soon.</p>
b.	<p><u>Encouraging children to get off technology and cultivating creative hobbies</u></p> <p>This is something of which the school is supportive but more context would be required before discussion could take place.</p>

c.	<p><u><i>New school building update</i></u></p> <p>Covered in Item 10. Headteacher report.</p>
d.	<p><u><i>New fundraising body with charitable status</i></u></p> <p>Bill Russell had looked at finding alternative income streams. To benefit from online fundraising organisations such as GoFundMe and Crowdfunding, a charity would have to be set up otherwise any funds raised would go into a private bank account which would not be appropriate. Discussion took place on whether further investigation was required, possibly by a dedicated working group with their being pros and cons around charitable status. The Chair will issue a paper about this for perusal by members to vote on at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that current engagement from parents is poor and Club200 already struggles to fill all spaces so there may be potential to look at ways of increasing engagement from parents first.</p> <p>Historically the Parent Council and PTA had merged because the latter was struggling for members to take on committee roles, but it is now considered a sub-group of the Parent Council and it was noted that operating under charitable status may be difficult. Pre-covid events (Bingo and Race nights) had been organised to raise funds and one third of donations made via Parent Pay goes to the PTA. Similar and other events can hopefully go ahead again post-covid.</p> <p><b>Action: Chair to issue information paper.</b></p>
e.	<p><u><i>Parent Council Constitution</i></u></p> <p>It was agreed that a working group be set up to look at re-writing the Parent Council Constitution as it was no longer fit for purpose. Volunteers were called for and include: Bill Russell, Bruce Renfrew, Graeme Milne, Dave Shenton, Alison Drylie, and Tony Fry. Michael Marley also volunteered though he was not present at meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked that they could report back to the next Parent Council meeting near the end of March 2022.</p> <p><b>Action: Constitution Working Group formed to conduct review and report by end of March 2022.</b></p>
5	<p><b>SQA and examinations</b></p> <p>Mr Jamieson reported that the S4 prelims took place in November. Initial concerns about the spread of Covid within the school had not come to fruition and any infections appear to be community transmitted.</p> <p>Restrictions on numbers participating in each exam were in place to protect invigilators.</p> <p>S5 &amp; S6 prelims were going well and with no apparent Covid issues and</p>

	<p>parents/guardians/pupils have shown great responsibility by isolating when appropriate.</p> <p>It was noted that for most of the pupils, this was the first time they had experience of sitting formal exams and it could be stressful for them.</p> <p>Currently, the SQA have intimated that the exams will run as normal from 26 April - 1 June 2022. If a crisis develops then they will revert to an alternative combined model of teacher assessments plus some submissions to the SQA. The SQA may issue information directly to pupils so they know what to expect.</p> <p>It was noted that whilst exams may not suit every pupil, the downside of the continuous assessment model means less teaching time for junior pupils at the school.</p> <p><u>Appeals</u></p> <p>For a missed exam by an individual, the school will send the SQA material from that pupil. It is yet unknown what the process will be when a pupil has sat an exam but wishes to appeal against the grade awarded.</p>
6	<p><b>Chair report</b></p> <p>The Chair reported that Covid has prevented the financial systems being set up for transfer of signature to the two new treasurers but this was ongoing and would be resolved a.s.a.p.</p> <p>A grant of £730 had been received from Perth &amp; Kinross Council. The bank balance is sitting at approximately £1,300 and there was discussion on how to spend this. Last year funds had been used to purchase outside furniture and funds should be used for projects where no other funding is available. Some ideas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liveried (with school logo) bins inside the school and more bins outside;</li> <li>• More books and resources for library. It was noted that library staff are inventive at coming up with great projects;</li> <li>• More outside furniture; and</li> <li>• More gym equipment, perhaps punchbags.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the table tennis tables were well used and popular but the space with the basketball hoops was not so well utilised. It was agreed that ideas should be pupil centred and the Headteacher would allocate to the Pupil Council to take forward.</p> <p><b>Action: Headteacher to engage with Pupil Council on potential ideas.</b></p>
7	<p><b>Secretary report</b></p> <p>The Secretary asked that anyone wishing a copy of the minutes, agendas or to be added to the mailing list, should intimate this by emailing</p>

	<p><a href="mailto:perthhighschoolparentcouncil@gmail.com">perthhighschoolparentcouncil@gmail.com</a></p> <p>There were three new parents expressing interest so current membership is still well within the maximum of 30 as stated in the current constitution but rules on membership is perhaps something worth consideration by the Constitution Working Group.</p> <p>The Secretary receives remuneration for services to the Parent Council. Historically this role was filled by a member of Perth High School staff however the current secretary is a parent volunteer and wishes to donate this to appropriate school funds.</p>
8	<p><b>Treasurer report</b></p> <p>See No. 6 Chair Report</p>
9	<p><b>PTA report</b></p> <p>Covid has prevented the usual fundraising events from taking place but the PTA will regroup and take this forward. There was a call for participation on the PTA and members are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula Collins (Chair);</li> <li>• Grant Wooler (Vice-chair);</li> <li>• Allan Kelman (Music &amp; Treasurer);</li> <li>• Emma Brown (Maths &amp; Club 2000 Secretary);</li> <li>• Susan Brown;</li> <li>• Tony Fry;</li> <li>• Dr Stephen Jones (Chemistry);</li> <li>• Gail Meek; and</li> <li>• Heather Yellowley (Languages).</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Headteacher report</b></p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>Staff shortages remain problematic but this is consistent with staffing problems throughout schools nationally. Fortunately Perth High is able to cope and is unlikely to have to temporarily close experienced by schools elsewhere.</p> <p><u>New school building</u></p> <p>Some small scale exploratory work digging bore holes has begun. The Headteacher will visit Bertha Park to assess locker provision and anything else pertinent to Perth High as the two schools will be similar.</p> <p>The mural from the current assembly hall is in a poor state of repair and not appropriate for display in the new building however the school have kept a print of it for reference.</p> <p>It was asked if the design stage of the building is now complete or was there still opportunity for parental input as there was concern that there had been little consultation. Drawings had been shared a while back pre-Covid. Early</p>

	<p>consultations took place with meetings and displays though it was unclear if this was with parents or just the local Oakbank community. The previous Chair had participated in a presentation by the architects and it would be helpful to the wider Parent Forum if this could be made available for general viewing.</p> <p>The Headteacher confirmed that the school intended to engage with the various construction organisations to maximise opportunities for the pupils. This is already underway with one of the organisations who run an unaccredited course. In addition, the pupils were asked to design the signage which will be displayed on the fences around the construction area and have donned hard hats to go on site for learning opportunities. The school's Technical Department will work with the various organisations to enhance the curriculum. It is hoped that there will be further consultation with pupils to build a 'wish list' of what they would like to see in their new school – one parent said her daughter in S6 would be keen to participate. A PKC official with the lead on the project build could come and make a presentation at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: Headteacher to follow up on PKC presentation and engagement with pupils.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Secretary to check if Architect presentation can be made available to wider Parent Forum.</b></p> <p><u>Exams</u></p> <p>As outlined by Mr Jamieson, there will be three scenarios for spring exams but currently working on the assumption that the full exam process will take place. Further details are available in the previous weekly Headteacher's letter.</p> <p>The Live and Learn Mindset sessions have started again to help pupils prepare and there will be virtual parent sessions available for those with pupils in S4-S6.</p> <p><u>Uniform</u></p> <p>The school will continue with the reintroduction of school uniform wearing with support and encouragement from parents and guardians. In addition, there will be a consultation with pupils on the potential for redesign of the uniforms and how 'fit for purpose' they are.</p> <p><u>Teachers Working Groups</u></p> <p>As outlined at the last meeting, these are now being rolled out and updates should be available at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p><u>Sporting success</u></p> <p>Sporting success and achievements will continue to be outlined in the headteacher's weekly letter to all parents and guardians.</p>
11	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>Practical assessment for PE</u></p> <p>Each pupil is assessed on an individual basis so despite there being a slot in</p>

	<p>the timetable, it is not feasible to incorporate this into such a short timescale. Practical assessments will take place during class time on an ongoing basis based on individual observation.</p> <p><u><i>Inconsistencies with prelim preparation</i></u></p> <p>Concern was expressed that some classes seem better prepared than others on how to answer exam questions. In addition, it would be helpful to keep parents informed so they can facilitate and help pupils with their learning, and all pupils should have access to the same resources. The Headteacher and Mr Jamieson said that all pupils should be at the same stage come exam time but if anyone had specific concerns, they should contact the school direct through the relevant interface. From experience this is what tends to happen as parents/guardians are not slow to flag up issues. In the first instance this should be to the general school email and would then be referred to the pupil's Guidance Teacher. Thereafter it would go to the Year Head then the Headteacher. There is a complaints procedure available if the issue is not resolved and details of all of this are available on the website and the school handbook. The Headteacher will reiterate the interface steps in his weekly letter.</p> <p><u><i>Covid Prevention</i></u></p> <p>There were concerns expressed about a lack of desk cleaning and what steps were being taken. The Headteacher continually reminds teachers of their obligations regarding Covid and sanitation products are broadly well stocked. Good protocols are in place and these are taken seriously. The school is not seeing a lot of in-school transmission of Covid and any spikes are in line with community transmission.</p>
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p><b><i>Thursday 24 March 2022.</i></b> Venue and time to be confirmed.</p>