



Minutes of Perth High School

Parent Council & PTA

7.00pm – 22 September 2022 at Bertha Park High School

Present: Bill Russell (Chair); Susan Brown (Vice Chair); Susan Morrison (Secretary); Caroline Stewart-McEwen (Joint Treasurer); Paula Collin (PTA); Martin Shaw (Headteacher); Jamie H (Head Prefect); Kym R (Head Prefect); Deans Buchanan; Lynn Erasmus; Neil Kelly; Cllr. Iain MacPherson; Gail Meek; Dr. Lesa Providence-Gentles; Bruce Renfrew; Eric Scott; Dave Shenton; Kerry Telford (Deputy Headteacher); Grant Wooler; and Jill Young.

Via Zoom: Cllr. Liz Barrett; Cllr. Sheila McCole; and Malcolm Shepherd.

Apologies: Cllr. Andy Chan; Tony Fry; Rob Jarvis; Ailsa McLellan; Graeme Milne; Sam Pettigrew; Jodie Saunders; and Merrick Whyte.

Agenda Item	
1	<p>Welcome by Chair</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to this meeting kindly hosted by Bertha Park High School following a well-attended tour of the school conducted by Stuart Clyde, Bertha Park Headteacher and Lindsay Galloway (Bertha Park Parent Council). The meeting was in hybrid mode with 20 attendees in person and three via Zoom.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p><i>Zoom</i></p> <p>The Chair was using his own Zoom licence for this meeting and happy to continue doing so until such time as the technology is available via the school, to allow hybrid meetings.</p> <p><i>Exclusion Figures</i></p> <p>The head teacher updated the Parent Council on exclusion rates and trends over the last five sessions.</p> <p><i>Social Media</i></p> <p>The Head Team has a Facebook page run through the school. Bill Russell and Susan Brown will meet with the Headteacher to discuss how best to set up a Twitter and Facebook account for the Parent Council. The PTA already has a Facebook account and there may be an opportunity to piggyback on it but this would need to be checked with Emma Brown on PTA.</p> <p>The minutes were then proposed by Bill Russell, seconded by Bruce Renfrew and accepted.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>SQA matters - Kerry Telford (Deputy Headteacher)</p> <p>Student appeals process this year took the format where any pupil could request an appeal and the teaching staff would then provide evidence to support this appeal if it substantiated it. There were 249 separate appeals accounting for around 10% of results. The SQA are currently dealing with approximately 55k appeals across Scotland.</p> <p>Senior phase tracking reports are due for release shortly.</p> <p>The first prelim exams are due end November for S4s sitting Nat 5s.</p> <p>During discussions about the appeals process, Mr Shaw reminded the Parent Council that Mrs Telford had lettered the parent community in advance of results day, Mr Shaw had referenced this, with the URL to the appeals process, in his letter – before results day, and both highlighted, as did PHS Twitter that the Senior Leadership Team were in school the week when results were released, in person during the holidays and were accessible by email and phone. The process was also available publicly on the SQA website and this year was able to be a pupil led process.</p> <p>The Headteacher stated that appeals are prioritised dependent on their urgency, with UCAS applicants first. This year the appeals system was very different and may change in future years and staff will always endeavour to be available whichever system is in place.</p> <p>Susan Brown intimated that feedback from parents was positive regarding an instant response from the school.</p> <p>When a pupil requests an appeal, the teacher estimates are based on demonstrated attainment (prelim) and evidence (classwork). Schools would make it clear to pupils if an appeal would be eligible or not.</p> <p>Attainment in 2021/22 has improved on the last comparable year (2019). Thanks was expressed to staff and the school from the Parent Council for the efforts made in pushing attainments up. It was noted that the supported study, parental support, and the Easter School programme run by Dr Jones all helped contribute to these efforts.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>New School Build</p> <p>Everyone on the tour conducted prior to the meeting agreed that it was very useful and interesting, gleaning an insight to how the school works, and noting anything that could be improved upon. It was noted that during their fitting out process, the Bertha Park Focus Group had valuable input and hopefully a Perth High School Focus Group can do similar once the tenders are finally signed.</p> <p>Cllr. McCole suggested that a senior pupil team could liaise with pupils at Bertha Park to get their experiences from a pupil perspective.</p> <p>Thanks was extended to Stuart Clyde and Lindsay Galloway for conducting the excellent and informative tour of Bertha Park School and enabling this meeting to</p>

	<p>take place.</p> <p>Action: Pupil perspective – Check with Head Team re liaising with Bertha Park Head Team</p>
5	<p>Update from Head Team</p> <p>Prefect team building day was a big success at Stanley Mills with good engagement across the activities.</p> <p>Three Head Team members gave blood in recent campaign helping spread awareness. We raised more than 30 pints of blood in total.</p> <p>An Instagram account has been set up aimed at students and run by the Head Team for all the school with currently 100 members and hoping for that to increase. Parents can also join.</p> <p>They also operate a Twitter account and this has been accessed and shared positively in the wider community including the chosen charity which this year is Perth Foodbank. They were most grateful for the Head Team getting in touch and helping them with their own social media. Plans are afoot to help increase food donations, firstly by asking those attending the winter ball to bring a contribution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Instagram: Perth_Highschool</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Twitter: @PHSHeadteam</p> <p>Deans Buchanan asked if the school website could display links to these plus all the other different social media accounts within the school. Social media links are already displayed on the website through live feed.</p> <p>Cllr. Liz Barratt thanked the Team for their positive engagement with the foodbank.</p>
6	<p>Headteacher report</p> <p><u>Uniform</u></p> <p>There has been a good start to the session with improvement in uniform compliance thanks to parental support. Already it is felt that this has made a positive difference in the school in terms of effort, behaviour and attitude.</p> <p><u>6th Year Prom</u></p> <p>It was noted that all the students behaved impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as did the adult members of staff present. Thanks to the previous Head Team for their efforts.</p> <p><u>PRISM</u></p> <p>Pupils have a project currently on display at Perth Museum which has received much positive feedback and all are encouraged to go and view it. On the last day of the session our PRISM group unveiled their Past, Present and potential display at Perth Museum.</p>

S1 Big Scottish Book Trust

Filming recently took place by the BBC, can't say too much but watch this space.

Awards

Reading - School recently awarded Silver and will be going for Gold.

Rights Respecting – School will be going for Bronze and Silver.

School nominated for three Scots language awards.

Staffing

New

Principal Support for Learning – Ray Hale

Art – Miss Sanchez

PE – two new teachers

Home Economics – one new teacher

Four new probationers

Recruiting

One new Design and Technology teacher to replace Mr Boag who is moving on.

Three pupil care and welfare teachers

One Deputy Head Teacher (Workforce Ready for Students). This will be a temporary role recruited from within current staff and will also have a remit for the S3 year group.

Thematic Inspection

The school has just undergone an inspection relating to anti-bullying. So far the data revealed some concerns where further work is required:

- Social media;
- Incidents happening away from school but then continuing in school;
- Incidents on transport on certain routes; and
- Length of lunchtime
- 98% of pupils surveyed stated that they felt the school does not tolerate bullying. This was validated in focus group discussions.

Lunchtime is currently 55 minutes. A shorter lunch time of 45 minutes is being considered along with re-opening the baguette bar.

There was discussion regarding options of how to accommodate a reduced lunch hour within the school timetable, pre-ordering lunch, and have pupils remain within campus, something that happened in previous years. Mr Shaw said that S1

pupils were not meant to leave the campus, but that there were no plans to roll that out further to other year groups.

BR held a vote within the meeting and asked for any objections to shortening lunch. The group unanimously agreed and PC support was given.

Mr Shaw stated that wider change around the school day would take place with full stakeholder consultation. This is set out already in the School Improvement Plan and will be taken forward by DHT Mr Murray. Mr Shaw is keen for the next PC to look at and feed into school improvement tasks, such as a new school day consultation and BGE curriculum review.

Prizegiving

This took place in September and proved to be a great night. However further discussion is required to consider best time of year to hold it and if more can be done to improve the experience, such as different events to mark achievement.

Parents evening

S3/4 parent contact evenings are imminent and will be conducted in person. School is considering wider options for engaging with more parents/guardians, such as continuing with virtual or a hybrid option.

Open evening

This will take place October for S1 pupils with possibility of opening up to S2 to establish wider community engagement.

Staff development

Team training is ongoing in the school for the ELT and the whole staff team led by educational consultant Ian Fraser. This evening the whole staff team were led on 'moral purpose' by Ian Fraser and Mr Shaw. In total there will be three staff development sessions.

Other items

- Library hosting Scottish Book Club
- Blood donations
- The Courier reported on the Dux and Head Team
- Assembly Hall has been renovated
- Pupil photos will take place 29 & 30 September
- With the better weather, some classes have been outside on nice days, litter picks have taken place and the school is looking ways to make further use of the wider campus area
- Mr Murray conducted his annual Moving On event, with very strong positive parent feedback

Future collaborative work and tasks with school and Parent Council

The school hopes to collaborate more with the Parent Council to improve the school experience for pupils with some of the following subjects:

- Rights Respecting
- Parent evening inclusivity
- School day consultation, with models, such as an asymmetric week and period times discussed
- BGE S1-S3
- Creative framework for SCQF to help pupils transition from school – e.g. modern apprenticeships in senior school. DHT Mrs Telford is leading on this.

It was suggested that tasks for the next Parent Council meeting could be done, but some preparatory work should be done between Headteacher and Chair beforehand.

Action: Preparatory meeting for collaborative work – Bill Russell and Martin Shaw.

Questions from Council members

Was there a full compliment of teaching staff – Home Economics still understaffed but there is a national shortage of HE teachers. A PC member, who is a teacher in another PKC school raised that there is discussion with PKC to get more probationers into schools, especially in the HE department. There are currently four Depute Heads with a temporary fifth about to be recruited from within existing staff. This is funded from the devolved school budget therefore cannot be made permanent. The ensuing vacant post will be backfilled by another existing staff member whose post will then be advertised externally.

There are now six guidance teachers.

Some parents are unclear as to best ways to contact school – guidance is available in the school handbook and website which is being updated and is available on school website. A pupil's Guidance Teacher should be the first line of pastoral contact, then the appropriate Depute Head and then ultimately the Headteacher. Office staff should be guiding parents to the correct contact but should there be any issues then parents can contact the Headteacher's email on website under 'staffing' to be directed appropriately. It should be noted that, unless urgent, it should be reasonable to wait for Guidance Teachers, DHTs and other school staff to respond.

It was asked if these routes could be clarified on the website and it was noted that previously there was a card issued to each pupil with main contact numbers, which proved very useful.

S1s – a couple of the S1 parents expressed concern that S1 pupils were reluctant to sit in their area of the concourse as the previous S3s had not yet moved on and

	<p>they felt intimidated. Could more be done to make the S1s feel welcomed, included and better informed on procedures such as Glow and Google classroom. There was also not enough information on extra-curricular activities and could they be made available on the website too.</p> <p>A Freshers event will take place soon for S1s with stalls on activities available. Mrs Yellowley has compiled a brochure to share with parents to tie in with this.</p> <p>Initial teething with Glow is a national issue but Google classroom helps and things tend to settle after 2-3 weeks.</p> <p>The school handbook should clarify contact / communication arrangements.</p>
7	<p>Chair Report</p> <p>Nothing to report. Proposed that at next meeting a representative comes along from Dundee University to talk about admissions, and graduate apprenticeships and possibly have a previous pupil along to discuss similar.</p>
8	<p>PTA Report</p> <p>For the benefit of new S1 parents Paula Collin outlined the PTA. Currently consists of four teachers and four parents and main aim is to raise funds for extra curricular activities. Previous examples include picnic benches and gym equipment. More members are always welcome.</p> <p>Last session a family quiz took place and raised £1,000.</p> <p>There is a Race Night planned for 4 November with posters and tickets being circulated imminently. The PTA will be looking for Raffle prizes and local business sponsorship – there are eight races to be sponsored.</p> <p>There is currently £6,700 in the bank account.</p> <p>Bruce Renfrew volunteered to be new signatory for the Parent Council bank account.</p>
9	<p>AOCB</p> <p><u>County Sports Selection Process</u></p> <p>Mr Shaw gave a run down of the process for this session. The county sports team was chosen through pupil choice in the first instance. Notices were in the bulletin and pupils came to us to sign up, providing their DOB's etc. Then, through discussion in P.E. pupils were slotted into different events. Some parents felt that this was not published widely enough to allow pupils to sign up. GW raised that the PE teams were planning for Athletics to be included in last term of school. This was noted and the Headteacher intimated that as the school was aiming towards School Sport accreditation status so the school which may see greater widening out of sporting opportunities and wider achievement.</p> <p><u>School uniform waiting time</u></p> <p>A parent felt the 10 week wait for blazers was disappointing. Mr Shaw agreed.</p>

	<p>School discussions with the uniform contractor will be conducted next month.</p> <p>Another parent asked if there were opportunities to try on hoodies. Mr Shaw shared the variety of events that Mrs Black has conducted to support with this and plans for these to be ongoing.</p> <p>Parents asked if there were opportunities to help out/volunteer in filling some staff spaces (for example admin.). It was noted that PVG would be required. There were examples shared, such as GW, who discussed volunteering at PHS. Mr Shaw agreed this was welcome and discussed DofE examples from other schools where this was a success. Mr Shaw has raised this in his recent weekly letter, one parent reminded the PC and last session.</p> <p>Action: Mr Shaw will reiterate opportunities for volunteering. This may be an action point for the PC at a future meeting</p> <p><u>Time out from Tech</u></p> <p>A parent had a keen interest in the amount of screen time and tech time pupils were exposed to. She informed the Council that there were plenty resources on the dangers of excessive technical use and asked if the school share more information including a specific website https://www.humanetech.com</p> <p><u>Duke of Edinburgh Scheme</u></p> <p>A parent had expressed concerns regarding the resourcing of the scheme and the reliance on goodwill and volunteers, particularly as some expeditions had been cancelled. The Headteacher explained that PHS had invested in a salaried position for this with a dedicated member of staff for outdoor learning. The backlog had been addressed and all expeditions had had now taken place. Other parents said there was a general lack of awareness about the scheme and how they can be involved, in volunteering for admin. Mr Shaw has raised this in HT letters, and there are some parent volunteers. It was emphasised by another parent that anyone can volunteer to be an assistant on expeditions, no specific qualifications required and the school will assist with PVG clearance.</p> <p>It was agreed to include the outdoor learning teacher's email within the minutes enabling easier contact for anyone wishing to volunteer. LOBrien@pkc.gov.uk</p> <p><u>School emails</u></p> <p>Another parent requested that school emails are specific with subject headings. It was agreed, however, that this has improved and been overtaken this session.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that in previous years meeting dates were agreed for the full year. Once preparatory meetings have taken place on collaborative work between the Parent Council and the school the venue and time will be confirmed. This will be conducted in hybrid form if the technology can be made available.</p>