



Parent Council

Monday 1 November 2021

Minute of Meeting

Present: Alex Cruickshank, Stephen Ross, Gillian McLean, Judy Haddow, Susan Taylor, Sarah Ewart, Jacqueline MacDonald, Arlene Graham, Jacqueline Breingan, Jen Nicholson, Gordon Thomson, Ross Blanchflower, Tish Sutherland, Marianne Leithers, Gillian McCaughie, Susan Young

Apologies: Joanne Duncan, Isla Dewar, Lynne Hunter, Angela McGillivray, Helen Bradley-Laing

	Agenda item	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies AC welcomed all to the meeting which was held socially distanced in the assembly hall. Introductions were made. Susan Young, PTC Supporting Learners Faculty joins tonight's meeting and will present information regarding the Beath Care Sector Apprenticeship Program later in the meeting. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting There are no matters to raise. Minutes from June were approved by; First: M Leithers Second: A Graham	
3.	Chairperson's Report AC has no report since last meeting. AC has received two emails since last meeting and have been forwarded on to everyone for information.	

4. Rector's Report

SR noted that it is nice to have an elected Vice Chair and Secretary and the biggest turn out to date for tonight's meeting.

HMIE Visit:

Beath was inspected in February 2019 with a follow up visit scheduled for 18 months later but due to covid this was postponed. Beath is one of the first schools to be visited post-pandemic and HMIE visitors, David Drysdale (HMIE), Ann Floyd (HMIE) and Lesley Henderson (Education Manager), will be in school next week for a visit and not an inspection. Monday 8th November will be meetings held online, AC is involved in meeting on Monday representing Parent Council. Tuesday PM and Wednesday AM visitors will be in school visiting classes and making observations. Visitors will not move around class when observing – will be more passive. Visitors will also meet with Pupil Leadership Team (PLT), Sport and Support Ambassadors when in school. Comms will be sent in letter form to all parent/carers via Groupcall and pupils will be given information via socially distanced assemblies held by Year Heads.

Beath have been working on feedback on two QIs from inspection in 2019. These were Learning, Teaching and Assessment which was satisfactory and Raising Attainment which was weak – due to poor attainment for number of years, have been working hard since to raise attainment. Beath are ready for the visit and hopefully visit will be a very positive experience.

Empowering colleagues and looking for leadership was a focus and one approach is Extended Senior Leadership Team (ESLT) where middle leaders, PTCs who are aspiring Depute Heads, given the opportunity to lead a project in school. New members are Susan Young, PTC SLF, Dave Lowrie, PTC HWB and Gael Fraser, PT Guidance. All three ESLT members will be given the opportunity to share what they are leading in school. Tonight, Susan Young will share her lead in school which ties in perfectly with whole school vision in being ready with skills and qualifications for the next step on their pathway.

5. **Beath Care Sector Apprenticeship Program**

SY shared update on Care Sector Apprenticeship Program and advised the hope is to receive feedback from the Parent Council members via online questionnaire and a focus group. SY is looking for 5 parent/carers from the Parent Council to take part in a one-off focus group and then to meet again once program is drafted to give feedback. Interest for being part of focus group should be emailed to AC who will then pass onto SY via email Susan.Young@fife.gov.uk.

Proposal for program came from two years of developing Support Ambassador role – where S5/6 pupils who want to give back to the school support in class with learning, assessments and paired reading tasks. Beath now has 24 Support Ambassadors and were issued with a badge to wear on blazer. Building on the Support Ambassador role and begin looking at opportunities available in the Care Sector for young people who want to move into sector as a career. SY handed out rationale which gives a lot of information. SY noted that the aim is to have Care Sector Apprenticeship Program ready for pupils to select as a subject choice next session, still deciding if program will be open to S5 and S5 or S6 only.

SY linking with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) - they have provided information that the job market in care sector will increase by 500 jobs over the next 3 years – it is important to support and maximise young people's opportunities in the job market.

SY liaising with local care sectors, whom in the past, have had High School students on work placements and this gave a good indication of skills etc and work placements is going to be part of the apprenticeship program. Local sector contacts will also come in to deliver some of the course. It is hoped that program will become recognised in local area and give young people an advantage in the care sector job market.

Meeting arranged for Tuesday 2nd November with Lynne Ralph, Fife College, to discuss how apprenticeship program would link with what is on offer at college.

Short Life Working Group (SLWG) for Care Sector Apprenticeship Program had first positive meeting on Tuesday 26th October and lots of ideas were shared. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23rd November and group members will be looking at gathering data via surveys and focus groups.

•Emails of interest to AC

	<p>SY welcomed questions from the Parent Council;</p> <p>T Sutherland: care sector can be female directed but there are male Support Ambassadors, will there opportunities and encouragement for males to join apprenticeship program?</p> <p><i>SY thanked T Sutherland for question and advised will keep this in mind when building program.</i></p> <p>J Haddow: is the Support Ambassador role carried out during non-contact periods? And during exam time is less required of pupils?</p> <p><i>SY advised this is the case for S6 but if an S5 pupil is dropping a subject then they carry out duties within the free periods created. SY noted that all Support Ambassadors are working towards a Saltire Award which is a recognised award. SY advised that there is no pressure placed on pupils to carry on with role and leave it up to the pupil to decide what they can commit too during exam timetable.</i></p>	
6.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Colours Ceremony: S Taylor enquired about Colours Ceremony. <i>SR asked S Taylor's son to speak with Mrs Barker—Harrison.</i></p> <p>Parents' Evening: S4 online parents' evening takes place on Thursday 4th November and parent/carers will have received an invitation to sign up to the booking system. System was trialled by Balwearie HS and feedback was positive.</p> <p>Dates for future parents' evenings are; S5/6 – Tuesday 7th December S2 – Wednesday 16th March S3 – Wednesday 20th April</p> <p>S Taylor feedback on booking system was signed up was easy – had a small issue with iPhone – link takes to parent portal – name, DOB required. Selected staff wanted to see and system auto generated appointment times over a 45 minute period.</p> <p>S Ewart noted if parent/carers are working when appointment times are released they miss out on getting appointments. J Haddow advised that portal opens at midnight and S Taylor advised went on to portal at 8.30am and availability was fine.</p>	

	<p>G McCaughie raised that S1/S2 year groups have a lot of subjects and will choice be limited due to time constraints of 5 minutes per appointment with staff? <i>SR noted that most parent/carers schedule appointments for priority subjects they would really like to talk to staff with such as English, Maths etc. SR is unaware of the workings of system and will be interesting to hear feedback once first parents' evening has taken place.</i></p> <p>Reports: Report for S4/5/6 are due imminently and S3 are due end of January. PTCs are contacting home with any concerns rather than waiting for report going home.</p> <p>Modern Languages: G McCaughie asked why there are the same number of Modern Languages periods as Maths. <i>SR advised that schools have to provide certain hours across curriculum in line with Scottish Government and what Beath provides meets these parameters put in place by Scottish Government.</i></p> <p>Buses: G McCaughie asked if school has any control with what happens on the school bus as daughter has made her aware of vaping taking place on the bus. <i>SR advised that young people can tell their Year Head or Guidance teacher names or a description and then school will investigate and take action by contacting home or escalating further if continues to happen. There are incidences of vaping within the playground and all staff take action if seen – number one priority is safety and practices have been put in place to achieve this – Prefects have a brilliant effect also.</i></p>	
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 17th January 2022 at 7pm.</p> <p>Dave Lowrie, PTC Health & Wellbeing, will be invited to meeting to present regards Mentors in Violence Prevention Program.</p>	
8.	<p>This Day in History</p> <p>1993 – European Union goes into effect.</p>	