

Minute of Meeting of Monifieth High School Parent Council
Wednesday 8th March 7pm 2023 (Monifieth High School, Library)

PRESENT: Mr Dingwall, Miss Herbert, Mrs Perry, Kathryn Foot, Hazel Orchiston, Jillian Macleod, Renata Soares, Yvonne, Kirsty Forde (4 attended via Zoom) **APOLOGIES:** Nicky Stewart

Welcome

Kathryn Foot (Vice Chair) welcomes everyone to the meeting and explains the last minutes changes and Nicky's absence.

Matters Arising

- Nicky Stewart (Chair) and Kathryn Foot (Vice) continue to facilitate links with all feeder schools – Grange, Seaview, Mattocks, Murroes, Birkhill, Liff, Auchterhouse. The hope is to set up links through the Parent Councils that will contribute to easing P7's transition into MHS.
- Mr Dingwall up-dated that no further school trips are being planned for the current S1's.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Fundraising

- Non-uniform day planned for first week back after the Easter holidays and a bingo night is being planned for two weeks after the holidays – dates and details to follow.
- Fundraising idea of “buy a brick” in the new school build not a viable option.
- Kathryn Foot fed back that other Parent Councils are typically not registered as a charity so it was decided not to pursue this further at this time.

Head Teacher Report

- Staffing: Mr Philipson-Masters has been appointed Principle Teacher of Maths. Mrs McConnell has been appointed Principle Teacher of Social Subjects and RME. If there are absences in the teaching staff, the senior classes preparing for exams will be prioritised.
- Continued reduced use of mobile phones in class has been positive.
- Continued reduction in number of children late to class. Text alert system to parents still being monitored. Feedback given from parents at the meeting that it can cause frustration and anxiety if the text alert is triggered unnecessarily – e.g. your child arrives late to class but this has already been pre-approved or child is in alternative provision and staff haven't

registered the change. It is not the child's fault in many of these instances so these glitches will need worked on.

- New Monifieth High School website due to go live after the Easter holidays. Discussion about the parent council having a “tab” on the website, as well as it being a central point for storing digital copies of the letters that go home with pupils in case they go missing in a “digital school bag”.
- Mr Dingwall and other teachers are currently looking at the possibility of using “Class Chart” to replace the current school app. This will be used by pupils/teachers/parents. Information on this will follow when a decision has been reached.
- Feedback from the recent parental engagement to be given next week via email to all parents.
- Exam leave to begin for S4-S6 pupils on 25th April. Pupils are welcome to study in the school during this time with times being identified for specific subject support.
- Pupils on the Polar Academy Expedition leave on 24th March for their Arctic Expedition. More about this can be found in Mr Dingwall's update email sent to all parent/carers on 14th March.
- There has been an increase in litter in the local area, residents have been in touch with the school. School to have a look at how they can improve this and ask all pupils to put their litter in the bins provided.
- Pupil timetables change on 29th May.

Miss Herbert : Updates from previous minutes

- Proposed family learning event date changed – now to be held on Thursday 27th April. More Information to follow.
- Some of the LACER (Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery) funding is in the process of being allocated to families for support with rising energy costs. Next step is to offer the funding for support with basic living costs such as food bills to families.
- The “glow form” appears to an effective way for families to apply for the funding. OQ codes put on the school trips information letters can also be used to apply for funding support towards their child participation on these trips. Positive uptake on this support as it is more private.

Mrs Perry: Update on digital learning

- S1's beginning in August 2023 will be allocated a Chromebook each. It is planned that within 3 years all pupils will have a device – rolling out from S1 upwards.
- Discussion had around how to get parents and carers engaged with this move towards digital learning and upskilled for supporting their young person. It was suggested that a

combination of online, in-person workshops and information leaflets may all be beneficial sources of support to help all styles of learners and availability.

- Mrs Perry suggested involving the pupils and staff members who are digital champions in the support being offered.

Parent Council Communication

- The new parent council email address is **monifiethpcc@gmail.com**
- Agenda items for Parent Council meetings will be requested from all parent forum, PC members and school staff in advance and will aim to come out earlier.
- Suggestion made to release dates of future meetings for the term ahead so that parents have advanced notice of them.
- Whole parent forum are not hearing about meetings – school and social media platforms will need to support this due to GDPR.
- Kathryn Foot attended recent ‘Parent Chair Voice Angus’ event (supported by Parental Engagement Officers, Connect and Jim Hammond). She fed back that the ‘ThinkUknow’ website may be a useful source of information for parents around keeping safe online. It is a useful education programme from the National Crime Agency’s Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command. Website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk . #Asktheawkward can also be accessed on the site which can help parents/carers explore online relationships with their secondary aged children, making these conversations part of everyday life. ‘Connect’ website has a lot of useful information for all parents keen to learn more about involvement in schools.

Meeting closed @8pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 7th June 7pm - proposed AGM .