



Kinross High School Parent Council
 Kinross High School
 Loch Leven Community Campus
 Muirs
 Kinross
 KY13 8FQ

**Kinross High School Parent Council
 Tuesday 28th September 2021**

Attendance

Cedric Wilkins (Chair)
 Sarah Brown (Head Teacher)
 Jason Bain
 Laura Alexander
 Christina Smith
 Alexa Mewse
 Gemma Toon (Treasurer)
 Jennifer Thompson
 Alison Conlon
 Ali Skea
 Sarah Hall
 Esther Blackburn
 Sheena Buchanan
 Petra Carlisle
 Nicola Carmichael
 Stephanie Chadwick
 Heidi Cameron
 Imola Aitken (School Captain)
 Lisa O'Hare
 Catriona Scott
 Nicola Hearnden
 George Cobb
 Rosemary Cameron (Clerk)

Apologies

Susan Pirie
 Kathryn Neill
 Cathryn Archer

Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The meeting was held via Zoom with Cedric Wilkins as chair and Rosemary Cameron as host. Apologies were received prior to the meeting as above.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

The minutes for August were approved by Gemma Toon and seconded by Christina Smith
 Actions arising:

No	Action	Actionee	Status
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Cedric Wilkins	On hold - assemblies are not currently taking place in person
2	Transfer bank signatories to new office bearers	Catriona Cully and new office bearers	Ongoing
3	Provide the Chair and Vice-Chairs with a list of who has been invited to the PC over the last 2 years	Rosemary Cameron	Complete

3. Head Teacher's Report

School Improvement

The Standards and Quality Report was published in September and is now on the school website.

School Budget

The budget is approx £5 million of which 97% is staff costs. Some money left over from last year has been spent on property costs. The Scottish Government is now allocating money to schools for curriculum charges. Travel costs this year have been low due to Covid.

Staffing

Core staffing has been reduced by 10% to around 70 FTE (Full Time Equivalent). There has been a resultant increase in class sizes and reduced contact time with teachers in Advanced Higher classes.

There are 3.2 FTE teachers for recovery and projects such as a literacy and numeracy focus and a teacher of inclusion. There is 1 FTE Pupil Care and Welfare Officer and 1.2 FTE Pupil Support Assistants.

Covid

There have been 56 cases in the learning community. The school has liaised with Public Health and reinforced existing mitigations. Vaccination is being promoted by Public Health. There is more pressure on staff due to absences. The current Covid restrictions will be in place until after the October holidays. Extra-curricular activities are restarting now and lockers will be available after the October holidays. There may be possible changes to the rules on face coverings in November. Assemblies are still virtual but it is hoped this will change soon. The changing rooms are not yet open and so school uniform remains relaxed for the time being. The community campus is starting to open up.

Support from the Parent Council

The PC can support the school by consulting with parents on school improvement and school uniform. (There has been a mixed reaction to a return to full school uniform.) Numbers at school lunch have dropped by 10% and the PC could help by promoting healthy choices with parents.

The PC chair mentioned issues about littering in the playing fields and issues with alternatives to Parentsportal which had been brought to his attention by parents but these were not discussed.

4. Introducing the School Captains

Only one of the three School Captains was able to attend the meeting - Imola Aitken. She told the PC how the captains are aiming to create a positive school atmosphere. A survey of S6 has been carried out and suggestions of extra-curricular activities, lunchtime concerts and dress-up/fun days were received. They have decided to do a fun day for each year group which allows the different houses to mix while being consistent with current Covid mitigations. S6 helped to run the S1 fun day which went very well. Clubs are also starting up which allows pupils from different years to mix. The PC wishes to thank Imola for taking the time to speak to us.

5. Presentation on Pupil Support

The Pupil Support faculty is comprised of

Pastoral

Inclusion

Health and Wellbeing Faculty

All teachers via TSG

Partners

Counselling in Schools Program (Place2Be)

The Lighthouse outreach project and drop in service

Community Link Workers

Services for Young People Youth Workers

Educational Psychologist

Skills Development Scotland

School Nurse

Community Police

Leadership of Change

Staffing

- 3 Depute Heads of House
- 3 Pupil Care and Welfare Officers
- 1 PT Inclusion
- 1 PT Health and Wellbeing

Covid/Recovery (from PKC)

- 1 FTE Teacher of Support
- 1 Attendance PCWO
- 1 Pupil Support Assistant
- 0.4 FTE Attainment Mentors *Questions were asked about how the attainment mentors will target their help and whether other depts in addition to music were looking at alternative qualifications.*

Universal Support

- Delivered by 36 teachers across 3 house groups

Health and Wellbeing

- Wellbeing ambassadors
- S1 Health and Wellbeing curriculum

Approaches

- Increased distributed leadership opportunities and follow up
- Reviewed roles and responsibilities
- Increased levels of information and communication (learner profiles, house email and phone calls system)
- Reviewed accommodation and implemented changes for joint working and to ensure welcoming environment

House Pupil Support Team

- Targeted and planned support delivered by House Pupil Support Teams
- Engagement and wellbeing checker during lockdown
- Systematic review of data in relation to attendance, exclusions, part-time timetables, additional support needs, positive destinations using our caseload overview
- Digital equity requests for devices
- Fortnightly House Pupil Support Team meetings
- Re-designed Integrated Team Meeting

The question was asked: who does a student go to first? Ideally their guidance teacher. Pupil Care and Welfare Officers are also available at break times.

Inclusion Team

- Introduction of targeted programmes e.g. literacy, numeracy, nurture, PIT Stop, FOLLY cafe

Child Protection and Safeguarding

- Reviewed Child Protection Officer team and increased number of CPOs

Transitions

- Improved transition between P7 and S1
- Introduction of transition one to one conversations e.g. UCAS and course choice

Recovery Plan 2021-22

1. Introduce an attendance policy
2. Set up and intensive support provision
3. Re-focus young people's entitlement to universal support
4. Embed targeted support to improve resilience and wellbeing
5. Implement UNCRC through Rights Respecting Schools Award and new relationships policy

Support from Parent Council

The PC can support the school with management of expectations in terms of responses to communications.

The PC can promote school attendance with parents.

School Evaluation

Rated as good (4) with aspects of very good (5). Aiming to improve on this.

6. Communication with Parents/Carers

How should the Parent Council communicate with parents and carers? Ps and Cs raise issues with the PC but they also raise issues at the monthly Parents and Carers Live sessions which are run by the school. There is a danger of duplication and also of the PC not knowing what has been shared at the Ps and Cs Live sessions. Sarah Brown agreed that the questions raised at the Live sessions and the school's answers could be shared with the Parent Council. The PC can also send concerns to Sarah to be included in a Live session. There was some discussion in the zoom chat about the timing of the Live sessions and a general feeling that if the time of day could be varied, that would be a good thing.

7. Survey Monkey Questionnaire regarding Employment of Private Tutors

The Chair voiced concern that parents were resorting to private tutors and wondered if it would be possible to do a survey of parents to find out the extent to which this is going on and the reasons behind it. There followed a discussion on the topic during which the following points were raised:

- Pupils missing school due to Covid may have caused an increase in the use of tutors.
- National e-learning is free (unlike private tutors) and is available via Glow. The live sessions are award-winning but only apply to seniors.
- It seems that Maths and Science in particular lead to a need or desire for extra tuition. It was pointed out that there is an out of school club for maths but this has not been running due to Covid.
- The school could share attainment data and the Quality Assurance results at a future meeting to allay fears that certain departments are under-performing.
- There was a concern that a survey might not be helpful and might not provide accurate information. The point was made that it should come from the PC, not the school, if carried out.
- Tutors have always been used by some parents for various reasons. It does not necessarily indicate a problem with the school. Care needs to be taken that a survey does not become simply a vehicle for criticism of particular departments.

No conclusion was reached and the subject may be returned to at a later date.

8. Blazer Sales Update

The office have a cheque for £840 to be collected by Gemma Toon.

There are about 180 blazers in stock but we do not know what sizes due to the difficulty with getting access to the school because of Covid restrictions. This means that it is difficult to assess whether more blazers need to be ordered next month. Action Gemma Toon to ask the office if they have a record of the sizes which have been sold since the last stock take. A decision on the order will be made once this has happened. (The minimum order is 50.)

9. Finance Update

The accounts have been completed but are still to be handed over to Gemma Toon.

General Account - £1773.97

Blazer Account - £4781.66

10. Planning for Future Meetings

Action Cedric Wilkins to discuss with Sarah Brown about sharing details of school performance at the next meeting as mentioned in item 7 above.

Action Cedric Wilkins to invite Mrs Furby to the next meeting to give an update on the Maths Department.

Now that curriculum charges are being funded by the Scottish Government, the parent council can revert to giving money to different school departments. To be discussed at the next meeting.

11. AOB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 2nd November**

No	Action	Actionee	Timescale
1	Send a representative from the PC to school assemblies.	Chair/Vice-Chairs	On hold
2	Transfer bank signatories to new office bearers	Catriona Culley and new office bearers	End of 2021
3	Ask the office which sizes of blazers have been sold.	Gemma Toon	02/11/21
4	Discuss sharing details of school performance at the next meeting with Sarah Brown.	Cedric Wilkins	02/11/21
5	Invite Mrs Furby to give an update on the Maths Dept at the next meeting.	Cedric Wilkins	02/11/21