**Smithycroft Secondary Parent Council Meeting**

**Minute of Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023**

**In Attendance**: Adrian Hood (Teacher Rep), James How (Teacher Rep), Lorraine McConway (parent – Rebecca McConway), Tracy Miller - Chair (parent – Mackenzie Christie), Patrick Oberg (Head Teacher), Neil Young – Vice Chair (Parent – Struan and Angus Young) and Julie Thompson (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Sam Gillies (parent – Matthew Madden), Alyssa Godsman (pupil), Mark McClintock - Treasurer (Co-opted member), Mandy Muir (parent – Calum Muir), Paul Muir (Calum Muir), Mirren Murray (pupil) and Libby Young (Parent – Struan and Angus Young)

1. **Previous Minute**

NY proposed and LMcC seconded the previous minute.

1. **HT Report**

PO gave a ***staffing update***. Marie Kerr is retiring at the end of January and will be replaced by Chris Hendrie who is currently PT English. He will be replaced by Adam Hoggan. To allow this to happen we have secured another English teacher. This arrangement will be in place until the end of June 2023. Unfortunately, Craig Murphy is still receiving treatment for his injury. The Parent Council asked we send him their best wishes.

A Business Plan has been submitted to the Authority requesting we change our DHT / Pastoral Care team slightly. To create ***Year Group Support Teams,*** it is hoped to have 3 DHTs and 5 full-time PT Pastoral Care teachers (one PT PC will consist on 0.6 and 0.4). This will mean each PT PC and a DHT will move with a particular year group as they move through the school. Pastoral Care currently have responsibility for a young person throughout their school career so this doesn’t change, but with our DHTs following the same model it will allow for greater support and continuity for our young people.

Our ***Christmas Concert*** went ahead with a live audience. This year the hall was set up in a cabaret style which proved extremely successful.

Those young people who attend school all the time were given the opportunity to go to the ***Pantomime***. As ever this was a roaring success. In line with our ***Attendance Matters Strategy*** pupils with 100%, 95%+ and improving attendance have been issued with certificates. This process has taken longer than anticipated due to the large numbers of pupils who received a certificate and the admin involved.

We were also able to host a ***Christmas Fayre***. This event was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

We are about to introduce our very own ***Smithy Shop***. This will be run by Natalie Miller who will be supported by staff and pupils. It is planned to have a pop-up shop next month and then have it open on a Tuesday after school. Parents will be invited to come along. We are experiencing a small issue in that some of the clothes that will be made available are second hand and need to be washed and ironed. The Parent Council offered to meet the cost of having this done. NY will speak to a colleague who he thinks will be able to assist.

***S2 Parents’ Evening*** takes place this week. Last year we held a Zoom Information Event on S2 options. The Power Point presentation used last year has been updated and the link will be sent to parents to allow them to view it prior to the Parents’ Evening. Hopefully this will ensure they are better equipped when they attend the Parents’ Evening.

1. **Appeals Process**

Following discussion at our last meeting TM has received a reply from SQA which stated that they can’t investigate individual cases. This letter was discussed.

PO explained MH also followed this up and was told they don’t give individual feedback.

1. **Teenage Vaping**

LMcC is hugely concerned with the amount of young people who are vaping. She has carried out some research into the dangers and also discussed it with NHS. PO has already raised this with our Campus Police Officer and will do so again. He also issued a parental letter before Christmas asking parents to be vigilant. We will look at addressing this in PSE to highlight the extensive dangers of vaping as it is felt young people are not aware of just how many health issues using them can cause.

1. **AOCB**

Parent Council Members

Andi Knight contacted us today to say she would need to leave the Parent Council due to work commitments. Thanks for her support and input will be passed on.

Funding

A warm welcome was extended to Baillie Annette Christie and Cllr Declan Blench.

As a Parent Council we were keen to discuss any funding that would be available to allow us to enhance our Mental Health input. Cllr Blench explained they are waiting to hear how much funding will be available through the East Centre Area Partnership Fund for 2023 / 24 and encouraged us to submit an application. We would be able to apply to for roughly £10,000 / £11,000. TM and NY will meet when the new funding is announced to complete and submit an application on our behalf. PO will speak with Natalie Miller and Harry Prescott to find out how we can supplement the work they are already doing.

Baillie Christie went on to say she has recently met with the Governor of Barlinnie Prison who is really keen to ‘give back’ to the community. PO will invite him to a meeting to ascertain if they can support us in any way..

Meeting started at 6.00pm

Meeting finished at 7.30pm

**Schedule of Meetings**:

Monday 5th September 2022

Monday 24th October 2022

Monday 21st November 2022

Monday 16th January 2023

Monday 20th March 2023

Monday 8th May 2023

**Parent Forum Zoom Meetings**:

Monday 3rd October 2022

Monday 12th December 2022

Monday 27th February 2023

Monday 12th June 2023