**Smithycroft Secondary Parent Council Meeting**

**Minute of Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023**

**In Attendance**: James How (Teacher Rep), Tracy Miller - Chair (parent – Mackenzie Christie),

Mark McClintock - Treasurer (Co-opted member), Lorraine McConway (parent – Rebecca McConway), Patrick Oberg (Head Teacher), Libby Young (Parent – Struan, Angus and Fergus Young), Neil Young – Vice Chair (Parent – Struan and Angus Young) and Julie Thompson (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Sam Gillies (parent – Matthew and Ben Madden),

**FTA:** Mandy Muir (parent – Calum Muir)

1. **Previous Minute**

Previous minute was not reviewed.

1. **HT Report**

PO gave a ***staffing update***. We have been joined by 22 new members of staff who all appear to be settling well.

***Pupils*** have returned looking very smart in their uniform. Numbers are holding up which means the school is busy, but all is good.

We have introduced a ***Year Group Team*** approach which is going very well. In most cases our teams comprise of a Year Head DHT, Pupil Support (Pastoral Care) teacher, Associate DHT and Associate PS teacher.

PO gave an overview of our ***SQA results***. He was delighted to report a 10% increase in those young people in S4 attaining 1 or more level 5 award. We also saw an increase in young people in S5 attaining a 1 or more level 6 award. We are currently reviewing our S5/S6 options to ensure all of our young people are studying the courses where they are likely to have the most success. TM raised concern over the fact, for the first time ever, we have had a few high achievers in S6 move to a school in another authority to study Advanced Highers as we were unable to offer them here. PO explained we do offer Advanced Highers in 5 subjects and also use the AH Hub, but unfortunately, we couldn’t accommodate the young people in question due to their subject choices. It is hoped we will be able to offer more AH’s in the future.

After consultation with staff it has been agreed to have 2 main items on our ***School Improvement Plan***; Early Intervention Prevention and Improving Learning in the Classroom.

We are finding a difference in our ***budget*** this year as, things that have been centrally funded in the past, are now being charged to school.

We have teamed up with a charity called ***Magic Breakfast*** which means we are in a position to offer a free breakfast to every young person every morning. Our probationers will be leading this initiative which should be up and running before the end of September.

In line with new GCC procedures in relation to the Fire Brigade attending we have created a ***Call Challenge Team***. PO explained this means we now have a small team of staff who have been trained and, in the event of the fire alarm sounding, will investigate and decide if the Fire Brigade need to attend.

1. **AGM**

Our AGM will take place on Monday 23 October. JT will send an invite to all parents and carers giving them the mandatory 4 weeks noticed. She will also arrange for reminders to be sent.

1. **Mental Health Funding**

LM asked if there was any update on funding mentioned by Councillor Christie.

NY gave details of some funding the Parent Council would be eligible to apply for. NY and PO will discuss further and agree on a ‘shopping list’. NY will then make an application on our behalf.

One of the suggestions made was to apply for funding to allow us to employ a replacement Home Liaison Officer. If we encouraged our feeder Primary Schools to do the same we could possibly employ someone full-time and then share that person amongst the Learning Community.

1. **Maths Provision**

LY was disappointed to report earlier concerns in relation to success in Maths came to fruition which meant some young people didn’t do as well in N5 Maths as hoped as their focus had been on Application of Maths.

PO explained he has discussed this with our new head of Maths who shared the pathway they intend implementing going forward.

LY asked what was being put in place to ensure our young people will be ready to be presented for their Higher Maths exam. PO will go back to our PT to discuss again for further clarity.

1. **AOCB**

Parent Council Fund

TM handed new forms to MM.

Golf It

NY explained Golf It are really keen to foster links with us. He will facilitate a meeting with them and PO.

Thank You

TM passed her thanks to everyone for their continued support during her time as Parent Council Chair. She wished the Parent Council well for the future.

Meeting started at 6.00pm

Meeting finished at 7.30pm

**Schedule of Meetings**:

Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 23rd October 2023

Monday 20th November 2023

Monday 15th January 2024

Monday 28th March 2024

Monday 23th May 2024

**Parent Forum Meetings**:

Monday 11th December 2023

Monday 26th February 2024

Monday 10th June 2024