 KILSYTH ACADEMY

Parent council Minutes, 03/03/2021&04/03/21

# In Attendance

Wednesday 03/03/21 G. Orrock GO- Head Teacher, C. Kay CK Deputy Head Teacher, T Fox TF Deputy Head Teacher, G Anderson GA -Chair, J Ballantyne JB, C Hamilton CH, G Bartlett GB, L Daisley LD

Thursday 04/03/21 G. Orrock GO- Head Teacher, T Clinton TC, J Machray JM, G Anderson GA -Chair, C Hamilton CH, G Bartlett GB, K McNiven KMcN, H Thomson HT, L Daisley LD

Apologies:

Welcome

* The meeting took place on the Microsoft Teams platform. It was agreed to split the meeting over 2 days as there was a significant topic to be discussed and there were several apologies from the PC.
* The Agenda for the Meeting

Welcome

Apologies

Review of previous minutes

SQA

Curriculum

P7 Transition

Head teacher report

AOCB

Minutes of Previous Meeting

* No comments on previous minutes and minutes accepted.

SQA

* TF in her role as SQA co-ordinator for the school gave an update on information received from the SQA regarding assessments. A summary is.
* The National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations have been cancelled this year. TF is presently meeting the SQA fortnightly which shows the moving landscape that we are currently experiencing.
* Last year the alternative certification model as based on grades being assessed by professional judgement.
* This year the model is based on the pupils demonstrating attainment. The teachers will then submit predicted grades on these assessments. These grades will not be changed.
* All subject guidelines have been amended for this alternative certification model. There are regular and ongoing updates, but all teachers are knowledgeable about guidelines.
* Most subjects will need 2-4 submissions of evidence to create a predicted grade.
* The SQA will request evidence for a small number of subjects as a verification process.
* The assessment diet for the subjects will be introduced after the Easter holidays.
* The final submission for assessments is the end of May; Teachers will advise of predicted grades in 1st week of June.
* Predicted grades will be formally submitted to the SQA by 25th June.
* PC asked if the grades will be published – The formal certificate will be posted on 10th August, but the pupils will already know their grades by June.
* The school will be sharing predicted grades with pupils and parents prior to the end of May submission with feedback already been given to pupils and parents.
* The SQA information is constantly being updated and there is an inconsistency within the subjects regarding the assessment criteria.
* Assessments must made within the school environment.
* Once the pupils come back to school the assessment gathering timetable will be issued.
* PC requested that there is clear communication with pupils and parents regarding the assessments to ensure clarity of requirements within the coming weeks.

# P7 Transition.

* CK confirmed that the P7 transition is all dependant on government guidelines.
* At this point in the school calendar there is usually a calendar of staff who visit the Primary school. As this is not allowed, the school has been working with the Primaries and organising digital sessions starting next week.
* Next week there will be digital assemblies with GO/CK for P7 pupils
* School captains will provide input as well as there being on-line walk- through schools.
* If the guideline allows, the P7 pupils will be allowed to come to the school and get their Discovery badge.
* The intention is to get them into school in June to get a flavour of classes.

Head Teacher report

* This has been a challenging couple of months for the school and the teachers.
* As the school is a Hub it caters for key workers children and vulnerable pupils.
* Bringing the Senior phase pupils back has been challenging to agree the timetable, but the attendance of the senior pupils has been good.
* The Hub pupils and Senior Phase pupils must be kept apart; with separate breaks and toilet facilities to be made available.
* S1-S3 timetable for blended learning is being reviewed. Classrooms can only have 10 pupils at a time. The finalised timetable will be available by the middle of next week.
* Pupil focus groups were set up with S1-S6 pupils. Good feedback received.
* Pupils in general are happy with the on-line learning provision but there are inconsistencies.
* Pupils have highlighted the requirement for Mental Health check-ins.
* SLT to support wellbeing and are considering the Options.
* There have been 2 parental studies and there will be another one next week. A lot of teachers are using individual polls.
* Challenges are to measure young persons engagement and provide support to people who have not engaged in on-line learning. There is a decline especially in the Junior School regarding engagement in on-line lessons.
* Rapid Testing. Rapid testing devices have been issued out to Senior pupils.
* No positive tests have been recorded.
* S2 Options. Online assembly held last week; 55 out of 100 attendance.
* S2 reports will be issued Friday 05/3/21.
* The School has made some savings this year. This meant that the SLT could offer additional resources to each dept.

Curriculum 2021 – 04-03-21

* GO explained that currently NLC schools offer a 33-period week.
* From August 2021 – the schools will offer a 32-period week of classroom teaching.
* This is to make budget savings and offer Enrichment activities for this period.
* NLC are provisionally considering 4 no days (Mon- Thur) 8.55am- 3.45pm with Friday being 8.55 am to 12.30pm.
* There are councils around Scotland who already have introduced this timetable.
* The Enrichment afternoon is entirely voluntary and could involve improved learning, work-ready and wider career pathway for senior pupils.
* GO did note that the Enrichment afternoon is outwith the teaching contract and would be organised by NLC, public sector bodies, 3rd sector bodies. This is to be detailed further as details become finalised.
* For the year groups, it would mean the following.
* S1&S2: The personal learning plan would be removed.
* S3: Modern Languages will reduce to 2 periods per week.
* S4: Employability would be removed.
* S5-S6: Remove PHSE Enrichment.

**Dates for next meeting:**

**TBA.**