 KILSYTH ACADEMY

Parent council Minutes (AGM, 23/10/2020)

# In Attendance

G. Orrock, C. Kay, A Brodie, T Clinton, J Machray, G Anderson, J Ballantyne, C Hamilton, N Devlin, G Bartlett, K McNiven, H Thomson

Apologies: L Daisley

Welcome

* The meeting took place on the Cisco Webex platform which only allows for a 50 minute meeting.
* G Orrock opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to our first virtual parent council meeting. Thanks were extended to previous members including the outgoing office bearer’s Matt Bendoris, Chair and Wendy Dunmore, Secretary. G Orrock offered to chair and minute the remainder meeting pending the election of office bearers.

Election of office bearers

* G Anderson was voted in as the Chair.
* G Bartlett was voted in as secretary.

# Treasurer’s report

* J Ballantyne reported that the balance of the Parent Council account was currently £683.69.

# Head Teacher’s report

G Orrock reported back to the meeting as follows:

* **SQA Results 2020 –** overall a very positive set of result albeit under very different circumstances. The initial result, pre the change to teacher estimates, seemed very much in-line with school expectations and the projected trend. Results were up across all measures in S4 and % with the exception of a slight drop, 1.8%, of pupils in S5 achieving 1 or more Highers. The school performed well against other NLC schools for pupils in S4 achieving 5 or more qualifications at level 5 (National 5) and in S5 for pupils gaining 5 or more qualification at level 6 (Higher).

At the time of the meeting there was not further information regarding SQA/Scottish Government proposals for exams next year.

* **Covid recovery planning** – overall there had been a relatively smooth return to school life with most pupils adapting very well to the new procedures and restrictions. There was good signage around the school, ample sanitizer stations, procedures in place to clean down classrooms and an enhanced cleaning schedule. Overall, pupils were coping well with the request to wear face coverings although the school was handing out significant numbers of disposable masks.

There was still some concern about a number of parents not supporting the school’s request to drop off and pick up pupils outside the school gates and a number of parents were still turning up unannounced asking to see school staff. G Orrock advised he has made several pleas to parents in his weekly letters regarding this.

At the time of the meeting, there was still no change to guidance related to P.E. lessons which would for the time being continue to be outdoors only.

Despite initial high levels of compliance amongst pupils to remaining in school during lunchtime this was becoming increasingly challenging. G Orrock reported that, like other school, pupils would be permitted to go off campus for lunch and would be reminded that normal Covid restrictions apply in shops etc.

At the time of the meeting the school had not experienced a positive case of Covid-19 amongst staff or pupils however, G Orrock assured the council that NLC and Public Health Lanarkshire had clear and robust procedures in place to deal with a case should it arise.

* **School calendar/parents nights** – G Orrock advised that the school was putting together an interim calendar pending further guidance. Initial tracking reports would be issued over the next few weeks however, there was still no solution to the issues presented by parents nights and face to face parental meetings. He also discussed concern about the impact Covid would have on the normal ‘fun’ social type events that pupils normally experience and the potential impact on our fundraising for charity.
* **Awards ceremonies –** G Orrock advised the school was developing a plan for an online awards ceremony to replace the junior and senior awards ceremonies that were scheduled for June and September. Although this will now be a little later than planned to give time to put together a virtual event we very much recognize this needs to happen and pupils are recognized for their achievements during this time.
* **Staffing update** – G Orrock provided a staffing update including those who have retired at the summer, new staff and the appointment of Gerry McKillop as Acting DHT responsible for pastoral care. He also outlined the additionally provided to the school to help tackle the current situation and the changes to the school management structure as a result of cost savings identified by NLC in their annual budget. He also reported a slight rise in the school roll from last session including the largest cohort from our East Dunbartonshire primary schools in the last few years.

**The meeting ended at 7.20pm.**

**A schedule of meetings for the year remains to be agreed. G Orrock agreed to put together draft dates and will arrange to meet with G Anderson.**