**PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS COUNCIL**



**Parents Council Meeting**

**11th March 2020**

**New Sports facility Peebles High**

**Minutes**

**Attendees**: Glenda Barton (Chair) Campbell Wilson (Head Teacher), Tommy Davidson, Vanessa Rice, Eric Nightingale, Susan Jarvis, Claire Barrett, Viv Leckie,

Tristan Compton, Muriel Foreman, Sarah Keen, Sarah Duncan, Rachel Beatton, Morven Smith, Lorraine Sykes, Brian Carlyle, Chris Knight, Catriona Bhatia, Angela Dobie, Noreen Fairbairn, Margaret Hogg, Elodie Sellar, Diane McKinney, Neil Robson, Gordon Murray, Abi Toolis, Louise Hosker, Sarah Keen, Morven Smith

**Additional attendees for the SQA / Exams session**:

Noreen Fairbairn, Caroline Martin, Shona Furness Alys Rodwell, Katharine Walpole, Fiona Home, Louise Bell, Abi Toolis, Lucina Houston, Isobel Finnie, Neil Robinson, Lucy Maclennan, Ali Tait. David Drummond.

**Extra session minutes from 6-7pm SQA and Exams**

The PC reported on the various meetings held with school, CEO of SBC and SQA.

At the meeting with the SQA on Monday 11th March we produced a 7 page report in advance of the meeting. We tried to investigate all procedures and policies for the SQA to try to find anywhere the SQA could help. Citing evidence including the following;

* **50% of teaching time lost** due to fire during 4.2 weeks (excluding extension of prelims and cancelling curricular support during study leave to support S1-S3 teaching). The range was 40 – 69%
* **Education Scotland Act 1996** as amended by **SQA Act 2002** (that education establishments are suitable for presenting people for these qualifications)

Ref: SQA Code of Practice

* **SQA** and school have a role in GIRFEC. (Ref **Children and Young people’s Act 2014**)

(Reference - **SQA Corporate Plan -2019- 2020-Status as a corporate parent** – “encourages public bodies to think carefully about how their work affects young people- and “we work closely with our care- experienced young people…”)

* **Trauma:**

Ref: Associate Director Psychology

Lead for National Trauma Training Programme

NHS Education for Scotland

* Reference -**SQA Contingency Group Plan Document**
* We note that more students are off track from where they should be this year than expected after prelims
* Snap survey **78% parents saying they were not comfortable with the letter from SBC**

Thanks given to Susan Jarvis, Viv Leckie and Vanessa Rice for the support to the Chair for this meeting.

**Outputs of the meeting**

* SQA showed great sympathy for PHS and have resourced it more than any other school ( 55 extensions)
* Their focus was to ensure as much as possible that our students were ready for the final exam
* That whilst they understand the issues of teaching time and facilities that is not their remit
* Their current processes do not allow for the number of unique individual issues at whole school level that impact outcomes, their contingencies apply to whole Scotland or individual child – it was agreed a procedure did not exist and that they could not see any way to resolve this.
* They accept that there is now a problem of time for students with all their added values
* They questioned the school if it was wise to postpone so many assessments into run up to exams and school felt in conjunction with staff this was the best way.
* They are happy to look into at a statement they could make to be a evidence to HFE and jobs. ( TBC)
* Their advice would now be just get your head down and do as much as you can before the exam
* Brainstorm outputs at the meeting included- personal statements, letters to admissions from SBC, letters for all students as reference from SBC and School.
* Ask them to look into their networks to seek any further guidance or ideas
* It was agreed that we meet again.

**Our additional proposals (added to our list by parents at the meeting)**

* Letter from SQA to John Swinney informing them their processes do not accommodate schools?
* Letters from us to John Swinney ( blanket exception for PHS)
* Request “ exceptional circumstance” ( c.f universities)
* Letter from SQA and SBC to admissions BUT also all Principles of Uni/colleges (for 3 years!)
* Letter from us to SQA
* Letter from students to John Swinney
* Petition
* Can we see the subject by subject data ( to support our letters)
* All resources available to PHS
* Teaching ( curricular) for students off track
* Extra tutors for students ( due to child protection this isn’t possible0
* Resolve resource/procurement issues within the school for **especially Art.**
* It was agreed to utilise a parent’s van to access cabinets offered by Moray House ( Many thanks to Tristan Compton),

Mr. Wilson updated us again on the great Easter programme on offer and a great joint session with parents on the first day to get our students in a “learning “mindset for Easter holidays . Please take advantage of this.

Also to take advantage of the lunchtime and after school sessions. Teachers are working very hard as are students.

Furthermore students listed as “off track” will get a mentor to support them to get back “on track”. Their parents will be written to in the next few days to offer this 1:1 support.

* The authority has set out guidance in the event of **Coronavirus** but we would like to utilise the ipads to facilitate face to face teaching and NOT just SMHW - action GB/ Chris Knight to share with PF
* Susan Jarvis requested to see the actual data from prelims with the min, max and mode within the data.

**Main PC meeting Minutes (7-9 pm)**

**Apologies** - Jeremy Lee (Depute Head), Kirsten Worsley, Vicki Swan

**Minute**s of the last meeting were approved.

**Hot topics raised:**

Lack of hand washing soap and paper towels etc.

Learning support & materials not yet ordered.

Bullying.

State of the pitches (flooding, report of horses using them).

Any other depts. needing materials?

Wifi in the school for iPads; charging for iPads in school.

Coronavirus - remote learning using iPads, MS Teams, Collaborate, Skype, etc

**PC Chair Summit update Glenda Barton**

Nurture Rollout from August – urge all to review on PHS Parents website.

Library update: (Tommy) common issue in Borders. All 9 schools looking at librarians being reintroduced, in some form to ensure that there is equity of resource.

**Update on fundraising and allocation to teachers Claire Barrett**

Principal Teachers’ orders to be in by Fri 13th March and Mr. Lee indicated no more spend this financial year (too busy/pressure to spend budget before year end).

Outline proposal (from Claire’s update) was presented to the PC i.e.:

Proposal for ring fenced money to go ahead, with some criteria behind those (although not too many constraints), we want to get the money into the school ASAP.

We will talk with the PTs offline about what the money could be spent on. Eg pastel paper for additional needs.

Get the message out to the community what we’re spending it on.

GB to talk offline with CW re blockages for money to PTs and issues with preferred suppliers for SBC

Fundraising group to take these proposals forward.

Our thanks were given to the fundraising group for all their efforts since the fire.

**Rubber stamp the Charity Proposal Eric Nightingale**

Eric presented his detailed proposal and final recommendation. Thanks to the support from Priorsford Primary and PYT‘s own charitable constitution which guided our plans.

This was agreed.

We also need a Fundraising Coordinator (doesn’t have to be a Trustee). A Trustee could have oversight for Fundraising.

Also need a Secretary for the Charity – need to decide on which Trustee will take this on.

Eric reviewed the current statement (to include here?) There is a lot of cash waiting to be spent .Eric recommended the remaining opportunity pot money to be transferred to school – EN to follow up with CW.

Thanks given to Eric in his treasurer’s role and all the work given to generating a very detailed and comprehensive constitution.

**Consultation of the School Rebuild Sarah Duncan / BAT group**

There was an opportunity for parents to hear the detailed vision and plan developed by the BAT on behalf of the Parent Council (see Pdf on our website).  It was noted that SBC would only be considered the current site and have committed £30M over 4 years (anticipated £10M from insurance settlement and £20M loan from Scottish Government) for the project.

**Update from SBC Liaison on timetable Catriona Bhatia**

There was a thank you given to Catriona for all the work she gave to the BAT team prior to her new role and how cooperative the process has been. We welcomed her in her new role to all our meetings.

Catriona updated us that the project team at SBC & PM coopted from Turner Townsend. Project includes Stephen Renwick and Lesley Munro. Norr architects are already appointed. They worked on Kingsland, Clovenfords, West Linton, and various school buildings around Scotland (Bertha Park in Perth)

Currently areas of building will be demolished, some under consideration may be retained.

Stakeholder consultation tomorrow night and Public consultation Monday night. Keeping it open/fluid just now, not too prescriptive at this stage.

(**Update for minutes as of Thursday 12th due to Coronavirus this has been reduced and Monday now online consultation only**)

Main questions will be as we have done -How should it look, what do you value etc. They will cover constraints of the site, typography considerations (water mains, trees, etc.) Then bid for funding to Scot Govt. £10M from insurance + £20M from Govt. Will these funds be enough? Seems tight. But additional funding can become available (eg Council Tax rise). Phase 2 might come into Phase 1 if additional funding becomes available. PC should be proactive if additional funding comes

Jedburgh getting tertiary education facility now from discussions with SBC.

Our timescale seems accurate from fedback given.

Catriona asked the PC what Comms would parents like, how often.

Buildings sub group going to the stakeholder consultation on behalf of the PC but we should all go to public consultation and put our agreed views across.

ACTION – remind parents to attend consultation at PHS on Monday 16th March. Catriona to

ask Comms at SBC to do Groupcall to parents of all schools in the cluster.

Main consultation- make sure parents know when it is so they can respond. Eg June would be ideal (after exams but before summer holidays – we don’t want delays).

Something through Groupcall to parents would be better than media release

Dedicated Facebook page? Communications need to be multichannel and include parents not on social media so groupcall is best for 100% coverage.

**Parent Council Input to Consultation – 11 March 2020**

There were over 40 comments received in total during the session, covering a range of areas that had largely already been identified by BAT discussions therefore confirming the vision meets the expectations of the wider parent forum

Design Features

* Inspirational building
* Attention to sensory needs to promote learning
* Natural light
* Classrooms good sizes and windows
* Self study areas
* Carbon neutral and use of solar panels

Tertiary Facilities

* Facilities for foundation & modern apprenticeships
* Areas that support lifelong learning and developing social skills
* Higher Education campus
* Borders College Campus
* Adult learning facility, including evening classes
* STEAM facility would naturally sit better in main school alongside subject areas

Additional Support Needs

* More facilities for children with learning disabilities
* Dedicated additional support base
* Service such as Leader Valley
* Adapted learning facilities for children with ASN (eg kitchens, technology and art)
* Acknowledgement of the range of learning needs 12 – 18+ (pedagogy through to andragogy)

Staff Facilities

* Well-resourced individual staff bases
* Central staff space
* Space for visiting staff and professionals
* Enough classrooms to minimize ‘hot-classrooming’
* Adequate storage space

Assembly space

* Should be separate from dining and PE spaces
* Theatre or stacking seats
* Bigger assembly space to fit whole school (community ethos)

Technology

* Should be fit for 2030
* Cutting edge IT
* Future proofed for the digital future
* State of the art WIFI infrastructure

Outdoor Space

* Outdoor space children want to use
* Community garden/growing space
* Pupil drop off/pick up zone & turning point

Miscellaneous

* Incorporate Peebles library
* Nursery
* Improve language faculty
* Dance studio
* Single sex toilets
* Café

Three key messages agreed:

* Full site to remain dedicated to education
* Facilities that support the learning needs of all pupils now and in the future (including neurodiversity/additional/complex needs)
* Facilities that provide a learning pathway for all pupils from early secondary through to DYW and tertiary education

**School Improvement Plan & Rector’s update Campbell Wilson**

**Staffing:**

Our new Maths teacher, Iain Wallace starts before Easter. Our new PEF PT(Dr Walling) started in February and will be joined by the new PEF ANAs over the next two weeks. Gillian Gess has been appointed as DHT in Gala Academy until August – we will be interviewing internal candidates as her replacement over the next two weeks.

**School Improvement plan update:**

Learning and Teaching:

Following reoccupation to our school we have progressed with improving teaching and learning in the following ways:

* Bruce Robertson (QIO teaching and learning) spoke with staff during the February in-service day.
* Our faculty Open Doors programme is back up and running and the following teams are next:
  + HWB 11th March;
  + Business and Technical 25th March;
  + Expressive Arts 2nd April.

Curriculum structure review:

Wednesday 13th May Curriculum structure information and discussion evening. All staff will have been fully consulted by the end of the first two weeks of study leave. Further engagement with pupils will happen at this time too. Parent Council assistance on that evening would be very welcome.

Parents from the Curriculum group invited to the meeting in May and to share data analysed from parental survey.

Action to be added to the next PC meeting.

Inspire Learning:

Three Digital Leaders identified, trained and providing strategic and operational leadership.

Comprehensive programme of Professional learning delivered to staff. All day every Thursday and recurring theme at In-service days.

Three information session on Inspire Learning delivered to S1-S6 parents.

1250 IPad deployed to all S1-S6 (Largest in SBC)

9 Miles of cabling installed to enable improved wifi throughout the school.

Installation of Apple TV to all learning spaces complete.

Team of Inspire Ambassadors from Senior School identified and trained (Model now adopted by other Borders schools)

Inspire Learning Professional Advisory Team (ILPAT) established comprising at least one member of every Curriculum Area.

Plan for creation of school wide workflow solution on going.

GB to arrange meeting with Mrs Moretta re additional needs (Brian) and add this to the next PC meeting.

Meeting concluded 9pm