**PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS COUNCIL**



**Parents Council AGM**

**Minutes**

**9th June 2020**

**Attendees**

Glenda Barton ( Chair) Campbell Wilson ( Rector) Paul Fagan ( Depute) , Vanessa Rice, Eric Nightingale, Claire Barrett, Susan Jarvis, Sarah Duncan, Tommy Davidson, Tristan Compton, Sarah Keen, Brian Carlysle, Lilian Halyrood Chris Knight, Ruth Docherty, Margaret Hogg, Angela Dobie,

No apologies

**Approval of minutes**

Minutes of the parent council meeting of the 11th march were agreed and signed off.

**Chair’s report**

**AGM PC Chair Report June 2020**

Firstly, there has probably never been a year quite like it in our lifetimes and its impact on the education of our families has never been more challenging.

I would firstly like to thank Mr. Wilson and all of his team for their incredible efforts to mitigate for the consequences of the catastrophic fire of November 2019 and the Lockdown due to Covid 19 in March 2020 - having only returned to site in February. Such long hours and stressful times for all staff. Thank you.

This threw all our plans into the air but tonight it is important to remember the journey we were on, not lose sight of it and continue on that path as we go forward. At the same time, this is a moment of thanks to everyone who put so much effort into supporting the school and our families’ education in our entire community.

The beginning of the session was planned in such a way to increase our role in the development of the School Improvement plan. This was intended to bring parents into the process earlier than we had been previously, as we have a remit as a Parent Council to do.

We had several presentations on the plan, how it is created and an insight into the parental survey and the key issues it threw up.

We concluded that the single biggest priority in the SIP this session would be **Teaching & Learning**.

As a result of stakeholder feedback the T&L focus for 2019-20 was:

* Quality of instruction
* Feedback (every young person knows their next steps in learning)
* Voice and choice (young people involved in learning)
* Communication with parents including homework

In addition within the SIP several further key challenges were listed-

* There had been a wholesale review of **pupil support** i.e. learning, pastoral and mental wellbeing by Mrs Moretta who had done an incredible amount of work on this. It was timetabled for our December meeting. I know the working group therefore wasn’t able to progress as far as they hoped due to this change.
* **The Inspire Learning Programme** – thank goodness for the ipads Mr. Fagan!
* **Curriculum** - Though changing the S4 curriculum from 8 to 6 subjects is widely considered to have been the right choice, we agreed to follow up the parental survey looking into evaluating the curriculum which is a considerable challenge due to the fire and now Covid 19.
* Mr. Wilson was asked about reviewing the **20/20 Vision** and we would like to support the planning for this new Vision, which would be attainment and inclusion driven.

In response to this SIP the Parent Council would work in two key ways with our efforts:-

1) **Helping in the implementation of the plan**

2) **Informing and influencing the next SIP.**

The Parent Council response was to create several working groups to work alongside the school on **Learning & Teaching, Neurodiversity, Fundraising, Curriculum, Ethos/ Positive relationships, DYW (careers)/ Eco-committee, as well as all our work on communication with our parent forum.**

I would like to thank all parents who participated in these working groups and we will talk about some of those further in the evening but although we didn’t get as far as we hoped with our original plans this session, we did have many successes eg Susan had made tremendous progress making us a plastic free school with the Eco-committee. Vanessa and Tyne thank you too, the Neurodiversity group, made significant headway in raising awareness during Neurodiversity week and it is a term that I hear teachers use now. Curriculum review, Mr. Wilson has met with a couple of us to try and restart the consultation, albeit we know with the blended learning due to Covid it may take a bit longer to make happen. Work was done on anti-bullying in the Ethos group. Learning & Teaching did have a number of training sessions for staff but in light of recent developments with the fire etc., much of the work has focused on on-line teaching skills.

We also covered a lot of issues through the year, exams and mental health, security in the building, personal support lessons, study periods, 5th year PE, periods for Advanced Highers, SBC budgets, supporting the Addams family production and thanks to Tristan and parent helpers for help with catering for that event.

I would like next to say farewell and thank you to Simon Fraser for all he has done for the school. He has created two different school websites, looked after the website maintenance for over 10 years, including helping us get Show My homework, leaflets, posters for career events, school newsletters, QR codes, campaign banners, setting up an email system (mailchimp), introducing us to survey monkey, posting the school bulletin every day and more. As he leaves us, we would like to thank him so much for everything he has done over the years with his graphic design skills on so many, many projects. Always altruistic, generous with his time and giving it all free of charge.

Of course fundraising was beyond expectation, with a focus initially on the National Agenda of “bridging the attainment gap”. Whilst this year we focused on how poverty is a barrier to success in school, we also talked about the exam results for learning support students and the gap there. Historically closing the gap was a challenge for a high attaining school like ours. So to help Peebles High School become a more inclusive school, one of the early PC challenges was to run the Promise Auction for the Opportunity Pot. This was an incredible success and my thanks to the entire Promise Auction team and the school for all their hard work - a fabulous partnership and generosity from our community. We will hear more on that from Sarah shortly. This then became an even greater success after the fire, with our amazingly generous community once more, Claire will talk about that later tonight.

As ever, we continue to improve how we communicate and consult the parent forum via our various communication channels, with an increasing following (1,723 on FB and 753 on twitter). In addition we have our new website which facilitates anyone not on social media to be able to see all the feeds and keep in touch. The work invested in managing these channels has never been as important as when we were trying to hear parents’ voices following the fire and Covid 19. Particular thanks to Vanessa for her incredible efforts this session on communication and thanks too to Chris for setting up the new website.

**November 28th**

The catastrophic fire of November 28th 2019 is something this community will never forget. However today we must remember how it brought out the best in so many people, from the support that afternoon and from our community all the way through to our return to site. It was quite remarkable and of course who would have known this was a rehearsal for another huge global impact in March?

As you know our first action after the fire was an email immediately to the school, council and local politicians to request Portacabins (i.e. temporary village) as a practical response to get us back to site quickly. (We did not want to be like Woodmill in Dunfermline) We had so many meetings I have lost count, several times a week. From setting up an initial small parent group on 5th December, followed by post holders on 6th December. This was intended to get us to a place where what we heard coming from the parent forum built our vision and priorities. It was quite overwhelming at times and thank you to Vanessa, Rachel and Claire for all their support on social media and emails during that time.

However, we developed a clear vision of returning to site for all students after Christmas with a full curriculum. This led to early meetings with SBC and we must congratulate our partners at SBC for their incredible hard work in support of our families. In addition, we were able to be part of the Cardrona meetings with school and SBC trying to get communication to parents quickly and also collect feedback to inform our own strategy and plans.

Our many meetings in December led us to set up a series of working groups to accelerate that Vision. We had Communication (Vanessa, Rachel, Claire and myself); a Learning & Teaching group / mental health led by Kirstin; Buildings group led by Catriona Bhatia and then by Sarah Duncan after Catriona joined SBC ( without whom we would not have been as successful); Fundraising led 3 ways by Claire Barrett on the Fire fund and teaching resources; Eric (with all our accounting and also setting us on the path to become a charity) and Susan & Gail (Lottery), Emotional support (Lillian / Muriel ) Sport & exercise (Morven and Ali) plus the huge response to practical requests for help of which there were so many but I would like to thank everyone who arranged the Christmas dance chaperones, Christmas decorations in the halls, scribes for exams and particularly Elodie Sellar for leading the bus support groups in such awful weather. Getting physical resources to staff was a massive challenge and as well as returning lost property-thank you Claire for leading on that with SBC and thanks too to Mr. Lee. I know many of you were part of more than one working group and I cannot thank the PC enough - it was a role model of partnership and co-operation.

I would also like too to thank our local hotels; the Peebles Hydro and Tontine in particular for hosting us without charge so many, many times – quite remarkable and we cannot thank you enough! Our hearts go out to the Crieff Hydro group employees this week and we hope we can return to support you all soon.

It was quite overwhelming at times but just at Christmas to hear the news we would be back on site on the 4th February was incredible. Our thanks for all the hard work that got us into a normal pattern of learning from SLT and teachers and in particular the massive amount of timetabling that has been done – Mr. Noon is doing it all again now for the Covid challenge and social distancing! Thank you so much! Inspire Learning roll out was a challenge to do so quickly on return but how lucky are we compared to other authorities who have young people struggling to get technology? Thank you to Mr. Fagan for leading on that too.

Thanks too to Claire for supporting the welcome packs to all departments on the day we returned to school and the lovely banner from Lemon Digital to make the students feel very welcome on their return.

We decided to return to normal business as a PC, with the exception of a few key issues for which sub groups continued.

Our challenge was to support all students returning but in particular getting S4-S6 through to their exams with so many hurdles in front of them. This has been an ongoing mission for the PC working with the school, SBC and the SQA. Thanks again to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Fagan for all the work with the SQA. It’s been tough but hopefully it has been worth it. So we had a small group of parents working on the exams, the ongoing issue of the Art department and lack of complete resources and space continues.

Then the Buildings sub group had to refocus on what Peebles High School 2.0 would look like and Sarah will talk about that a little later.

We worked on setting up our charity and our grateful thanks to Eric for all his hard work. You have been such an enormous support and thanks to all trustees who put themselves forward.

In addition, we were in a positive frame of mind and the celebration of the Fire Recovery Ball by the Odd Shaped Ball committee and the incredible funds raised that night was such a joyous occasion. (N.b These funds were paid directly to the school). Thanks Brian for co-ordinating us all for such a happy night.

**March then brought the spectre of Covid 19.**

We faced school closures again.

Thankfully our rehearsal from the Fire put us into action again with our communication tools, collating and responding to parental voices, pulling through the key issues and trying to continue to build learning resources on our new website to help learning at home. A summary of which we shared via our May e-bulletin. Working with the school was mainly on how online learning could be more effective; wellbeing for all; learning for especially vulnerable students; support for cancellation of exams & grade estimates; cancellation of trips & refunds. Thank you to the school for responding to it all - especially Mr. Wilson. This was as everyone tried to cope with family issues, getting food, illness, many being a key worker or coping with their business or losing their jobs. Staff were also trying to deliver learning online as they coped with the same issues and our thanks to you all.

April included a break of sorts with 2 weeks off, although senior students continued studying hard to complete work. May should have been exam month but was a month for getting to grips with the remote learning. Thank you for listening to students and parents by introducing new improvements. We had younger students coping with such a disrupted year plus huge pressure on young people in the senior phase, trying to build a body of evidence to submit to the SQA. This was a particularly busy period for the small parental sub group and I would like to thank Viv, Susan and Vanessa for all their hard work, as we responded time & time again to government guidance on exams & estimates. At the same time working hard to support in any way we could school leavers and mitigate for the fire and Covid 19. We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate parents since Lockdown in these very difficult circumstances, for being both parent and teacher. This has been a real team effort and great job everyone!

Whilst the whole world is on a steep learning curve, we still have a long way to go and our challenge now is the effective and safe return to school. Currently, we are helping with Peeblesshire Youth Trust and Sarah Keen with Mrs Moretta to put together a programme for P7s coming up with the help of the previous S1s. Thank you to Sarah. Claire is again working on ensuring that students don’t run out of resources and she kindly delivered student resources around the catchment to help our young people in lockdown.

We must work hard once again in partnership to have a positive contribution to the debate of what schools and learning looks like in August. As discussed we will put another date in the diary this month to talk about this.

Finally, thank you to all post holders for all their hard work this session and also to Lorne who I am so sorry it was such a disrupted year for you. You have all worked so hard with a workload of several previous years!

I would also like to say goodbye to Margaret Hogg after so many dedicated years at Peebles High as she heads off to her new post at Galashiels Academy (please give them our grateful thanks too and best wishes) now you have formally completed your training , thank you and we wish you the very best of luck.

So we look to the new session with some caution but importantly with ambition for our families and hope that we can continue in the same spirit with the school and the authority to design our return to school, in what will not be the new normal but rather the “next normal”!

Thank you all so much again and if I don’t speak to you again before the end of the session can I wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

**Rector’s report (Including Mr. Fagan on SQA Grade estimates)**

Following on from our Chair’s report, I would firstly like to concur that it has indeed been the most ridiculously challenging of years and I echo her thanks to my talented, loyal and relentlessly hard-working Senior Leadership Team and wider staff. Every time we have thought we were through the latest unconscionable challenge, the next one has materialised.

I must also return the thanks to the Parent Council. Our hard work has been more than matched by your efforts and support. Thank you to each and every one of you. It has been a curious and very welcome outcome of this crazy year that our community has never seemed more united and education in the town has never been more valued. I hope that, as we look towards the rebuilding of our school, this understanding of the importance of our school to our community will help to ensure that our buildings in the future reflect the importance of quality education for our young people. I could write a book about this year and one day I think I probably will but this evening I do not think it appropriate to spend time reflecting on the fire and Covid-19 but rather to focus on what we did achieve in our efforts to improve our school:

**Learning & Teaching:**

Glenda pointed out that it was a key feature of our SIP this year and, before the fire, and in February on our return, we discovered real strengths in the L&T of our school through our Open Doors Days. We did not review every Faculty this session as we had planned but we do have a better understanding of where we are in terms of the HGIOS 4 National Standard and an understanding of what we have to do to be more consistently ‘Good’.

Obviously, our intention is to aim for a rating of ‘excellent’ but it is important to acknowledge that we are not there yet and we are far better placed at the end of this session to know what journey we have to go on to reach that standard. Who knows, if we can achieve it in the next three years , we could be the first school to attain that rating – no school in Scotland, Primary or Secondary, has achieved that rating yet in Inspection and nor will they in the next 12 months as HMIe have suspended Inspections for the coming session. Apologies if I sound relieved while sharing that information!

**Pupil Support:**

This has probably been the area of least progress in terms of our SIP from last session but we don’t hold the fire responsible for its failure of completion. We pitched our restructure to Senior Education Staff in September and it was so well received that the authority decided to implement their own review, region-wide, based on our recommendations. Donna Moretta played a lead role in that review and we are hopeful that we can pick up and run with our ideas for the coming session albeit we may have to wait until the following year before implementing the new structure. We welcome the continued input of Parent Council in taking this forward.

**Inspire Learning:**

Great progress was made here and we delivered all of our key aims from last year’s SIP. Every student was issued with an iPad after and despite the fire and, accelerated by Covid-19 all of our staff and young people are maximising their use and benefits. As we move toward more blended learning in August and beyond they will become increasingly important. When Covid is over we will be in a great place to utilise technology to help us move closer to excellent Learning and Teaching.

**Motiv8:**

Excellent area to report on this year. Motiv8 was our new unit to support S4 young people in danger of not attaining any qualifications before leaving School. We set an ambitious target of 90% of our new S5s attaining 5 qualifications at any level and, while we won’t know for sure until August, despite the fire and Covid, we think we have hit it. Great news: this has been a problem for our community for years and we are close to cracking it. Motiv8 has become the **Hive** and will operate under its new title from August in a new ‘social distancing way. More on SQA results soon.

**Curriculum Structure review:**

We would have hoped to have concluded our review of our curriculum structure by now but the much alluded to disruptions to our year mean that we are still engaged with this activity. Plans are in place for me to provide a more comprehensive presentation to all parents online this month and seek to make a decision prior to October. Thank you to Susan Jarvis for helping to keep momentum behind this important work at a time when it would have been easy to lose sight of it.

Have we delivered all of our SIP targets this year? Absolutely not but we have moved the school forward in key areas and I remain resolute in my ambition for your children. The challenge of protecting attainment this year has been huge and it is important that I update you as to where we are on that journey:

We were praised in March 2019 for breaking in to the top 20 schools in Scotland in the press League tables. I accepted the praise but pointed out that, given our S6 attainment that year, we would fall out of the top 20 in the 2020 tables. Boy did we. I didn’t think that we would be back into the 60s – a position PHS last occupied in the early noughties. The drop is a testament to the improvement in many other schools in that our S6 attainment dropped very little. We will be back inside the top 20 soon (my prediction is 2022) and I still believe we have a staff and student body who could take us all the way to the top – a position Jordanhill School has occupied for 20 years now. The task of getting young people the attainment they deserve this year has been immense and I will now take you through a high level description of our estimated results for 2020:

**S4:**

Our equal best year ever with a predicted 67% attaining 5 National 5s

Our best ever year with 90% attaining 5 qualifications at any level

**S5:**

Our best ever attainment: 39.6 % (of S4 roll) attaining 5 Highers!!

**S6:**

Better than last year:

Up from 42% to 45 % with 5 Highers. Still a little below the 2018 performance that took us in to the top 20 but up a little on last year - a modest rise in next year’s league table predicted but, as alluded to earlier when our record breaking 5th year results translate to S6 results 2021, we should look very strong and improving again in 2021.

To quote Morrissey: “November spawned a monster” in the fire

To quote a Disco classic: “last Night a DJ saved my life”

OR

This session Covid saved our SQA results.

Of course, seriously, it is far more complicated than that and belies the phenomenal efforts of our young people, parents and staff .

I would like also to say that the group of us who met with the SQA in March, myself, Paul, Glenda, Susan and Viv, we hope influenced their final processes. All the things we asked for as a result of the fire eg Teacher judgement, past performance, holistic review of performance etc. have been all the things that have been applied at a Scottish national level as a result of Covid19. We hope that it wasn’t so much Covid saving us but Peebles High School saved Scotland’s young people!

I am delighted that Mr. Fagan is here this evening to take 10 minutes to explain how we came to these results and why we believe they are a true reflection of how our young people would have done with no fire and no Covid.

**Process used by PHS for estimates of exam grades for SQA Submission**

Mr. Fagan went through a detailed review of the process used to predict exam grades in light of both the fire and Covid 19. (Please see attached slides from Mr. Fagan)

Thanks were expressed to all staff for this outcome and the huge efforts in this work by Mr. Fagan and also another thank you to Steve Jones our Business Manager who is an excellent statistician who supported the data analysis.

**Treasurer’s report & Charity update (Eric Nightingale)**

**Income:**

Owing to the impact of the School Fire the Parent Council benefitted from quite an overwhelming show of generosity from parents and relatives of pupils, past pupils together with sizeable donations from the local business community.

We started the year, at 1st April 2019 with cash reserves of £10,984 that had grown to £33,552 by the 31st March. 2020 and that was after transferring £16,598 for the benefit of Peebles High School.

From the overview of the accounts we can see that Fire Fund donations totaled £28,892 with £7,392 being collected via Crowdfunder UK, plus a total of £21,000 from Glenrath Farms, Holland & Sherry and Baillie Gifford together with £500 from an anonymous family. On top of these figures a further £500 was received after 31 March from the Edinburgh office of Hymans Robertson through their Helping Hands volunteer group.

On top of this, loyal supporters of PHS Lottery provided a further £5,528 and the Addams Family show generated a profit of £461 from the sale of raffle tickets and refreshments over the two nights.

The Parent Council also provided administrative support for the Promise Auction held in the autumn of 2019 in the way of payment collection through credit and debit cards and on-line faster payment facilities. £4,476 was collected this way.

Other income included £500 received from SBC towards two years of secretarial costs and this year in another expression of generosity, £300 of lottery prizes were unexpectedly declined with a request that the Parent Council retain that money for the benefit of the school.

**Expenses:**

The secretarial costs paid amounted to £250 for the previous and £125 on account, for the current year with a further £125 payable in June 2020. Therefore the costs are fully balanced by the £500 SBC grant received.

Lottery prizes totalled £700 although as mentioned above, £300 was written back.

Lottery Licence costs amounted to £20 and Administrative expenses were negligible at £14.

**Transfers to Peebles High School:**

In acknowledgement of the 2018/19 department bid process £4,620 was transferred to Peebles High School providing resources and equipment to Biology, Business & IT, Chemistry, ECO Committee, Modern Languages, and STEM, leaving a further £3,417 transferable upon request. A full analysis of what’s been provided is included in the PC Annual Report and Accounts.

**Transfers to Peebles High School- continued:**

Fire Recovery Donations made included £2,000 for immediate purchase of Art Department Resources and £5,000 to fund the cost of trips and subject relevant activities for 445 S1-S3 pupils, during their final week of displacement. Together with £248 for the purchase of Drama Play Books and £255 for Welcome Back gifts for teaching staff on the re-opening of the school.

As referred to earlier £4,476 collected during the Promise Auction was also transferred to Peebles High School.

**Cash Balance at 31 March 2020.**

Covid-19 and the subsequent school closure has to a certain extent delayed conclusion over how the residual Fire Recovery Fund should be best spent. Of the remaining £21,889 it has been proposed to transfer £2,000 to each of the six departments directly impacted by the fire i.e.

Physical Education

Sport Teams

Pastoral

Additional Needs

Modern Languages

Mathematics

With the residue of £9,889 being spread across other departments, as recommended by the school.

Conclusion:

All in all this has been a very eventful and challenging year, generating an incredible response of generosity from members of the Parent Council, School, Parents and the Community etc.

**Action:**

It was noted that there is a possible refund of £2000 from the insurance so as Art received their £2000 in lieu of basic resources that refund should be put to Art to allow them to have the same amount as other badly impacted departments.

**Signed and independently examined accounts are attached to this report for all to see and please let us know if there are any questions on the accounts so that they can be considered approved before the end of the session. We would like to thanks Mr. Charles Gray for all his help once again with our accounts.**

**Update on Registered Charity.**

During the year established members of the Parent Council met to discuss opportunities for forming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and identified the resulting benefits.

It was agreed that a SCIO would facilitate the following:

* Eligibility to obtain Gift-Aid from personal donations, once the SCIO had been registered with HMRC
* Eligibility to access local and national funding pots earmarked for registered charitable causes.
* Ability to access private sector matched funding initiatives only otherwise available to registered charities

The proposed name was “Friends of Peebles High School (SCIO)” and after agreeing the constitution a formal application was submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) on 25 May 2020.

The six founding Trustees detailed on the application were as follows:

Glenda Barton

Campbell Wilson

Angela Dobie

Sarah Duncan

Tristan Compton

Eric Nightingale

The application is expected to take around three months to complete and we are therefore optimistic the Charity will be operational around the time of the next academic school year.

**Fundraising report**

Susan Jarvis (Lottery)

During the last academic year we started off trying to increase the number of tickets sold. We had just had a pull-up banner made to promote the PHS Lottery at events (thank you to Lemon Digital) when the fire happened. However the Lottery has continued during the displacement period and during the remote teaching phase. We did our first virtual lottery draw recently and this worked well. We will continue on as normal for now but will not be promoting membership expansion given the current financial climate. We will resume promotion of the lottery when the appropriate time comes. Next draw will be 14th September.

**Claire Barrett (Fire Fund) (See attached slides)**

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

Directly after the fire, all a bit crazy - in the emergency phase

We were getting daily requests for basic materials - temporary classrooms were being set up around Peebles and resources were urgently needed.

Items were being donated by many local businesses and individuals but we were also being asked how financial donations could be made people just wanted to help.

**CROWDFUNDER**

So on the 9th December, after a bit of research, we set up the Crowdfunder page and launched it using all our usual comms channels = social media

By the end of the first day, it had raised £3820!

The campaign ran from 9 Dec – 3 Feb – total £7600

Donors were from near & far – not necessarily currently linked to the school, they’re from all around the community and further afield – ex pupils, local businesses,

I’ve included some of the comments from the page – which shows the strength of feeling and fondness for the school, real feeling that people wanted to help in whatever way they could

**FIGURES**

**What we’ve raised & received in donations: £29,392.33**

Breakdown:

Crowdfunder site: after deductions £7,392.33 (*173 donors, £7600)*

£500 anonymous donation

£1000 Baillie Gifford

£10,000 Glenrath Farms (no specified terms)

£10,000 Holland & Sherry (‘tangible educational tools for the benefit of the children’)

£500 from Helping Hands charity (recvd in May)

We had transferred £5k directly to the school to pay for resources that were needed urgently (the Glenrath donation allowed us to do this, as the Crowdfunder campaign was still ongoing)

SBC then confirmed that the cost of any resources required as a direct result of the fire would be picked up by the council. So the £5k was then used to fund trips for S1-S3 in the final week of pupils being displaced.

*(445 S1 - S3 pupils in Business Studies, Manufacturing & Design and Science to Museum of Flight, Edinburgh Zoo, Museum of Scotland, Money on the Mound Museum) £4220 (£9.48 per pupil)*

Paid out in cheques to teachers who purchased materials themselves.

Welcome gifts – 11 hampers – one in each staff base – cakes, fruit, tea, lift spirits

£2000 was transferred to the Art Dept – one of the worst hit depts

£7,503.49 spent

**FIRE FUND – NEXT STEPS**

**£21,888.84**

**Support every department in the school but with particular emphasis on those worst impacted:**

Art, PE, Sports Teams, Pastoral Support, Additional Needs, Modern Languages, Maths.

Proposal therefore is to allocate c£14k to be split between these departments and the remaining nearly £10k to the rest of the school. ( On the assumption that a further £2000 will provided by the insurance claim mentioned earlier)

We believe there is a resource allocation formula which is used to ensure monies are distributed proportionately for each department.

We had floated the idea of a very low-cost thank you event (garden party) for the many community groups and individuals who provided assistance at the time, but this clearly isn’t possible now unfortunately.

Action – It was agreed if that was possible that monies would be found within our fundraising budgets for that in the future but we are keen to make the fire-fund work for our children now and are keen to hear what plans are for the monies within departments in order to be able to report to our donors what we have done.

A gift for Gala Academy in recognition of their wonderful support and patience, during the time our senior pupils were placed there.

**Promise Auction – Opportunity Pot Fundraising – Sarah Duncan**

An Opportunity Pot was created at the school around 7 years ago to help support pupils from more challenging backgrounds in accessing the full curriculum and extra-curricular activities. The funds had been raised by holding a variety show and auction alongside a grand raffle. On Mr. Wilson’s return in late 2018 he acknowledged the fund was depleted therefore he asked the Parent Council to help run a similar event in 2019 to enable the fund to be continued for several more years.

A core auction planning team was formed consisting of 4 parents (Sarah Duncan, Vanessa Rice, Claire Barrett and Glenda Barton) and a teacher representative (Margaret Kinahan). In the run up to the event we also received a lot of support from the office staff (especially Juliet George and Helen Porteous), janitorial team and an additional 15-20 parents and staff who helped on the night.

The event itself was organized in 3 parts –

A variety show and grand auction evening held on 4th October raised around £5k.

A grand raffle with tickets sold in the school and community raised around £2k.

An online silent auction that was held in the run up to the evening raised around £2.5k.

There were also several one-off donations received that totaled around £500 so the school were able to allocate profit of just over £10k to the Pot.

I’d like to express my final thanks to all staff, parents/carers and members of the community for supporting this fundraiser. I recommend another online auction be scheduled to take place in academic year 2021/22 to top up the fund followed by another grand auction in 2023/24.

The Chair at this point thanked everyone involved in the Lottery, Promise Auction and Fire Fund for their incredible efforts. Going forward with fundraising we need to be sensitive to the community challenges as people come out of furlough. Our grateful thanks to our community for all their support.

**Building Sub-group - Sarah Duncan**

The Building subgroup was created in December 2019 to provide a parent voice in the process of agreeing next steps for the Peebles HS site after the fire. We met several times between December and early March to help support SBC in getting the school site ready for the return of pupils in February as well as considering what the site could look like in the medium and long term. We created a vision document that was approved by the Parent Council and shared with the wider school community in early March.

SBC established a Project Team and put in place a dedicated Liaison Officer to ensure the school and community are engaged, informed and involved in the process. A budget of £30m was approved by council committee for the project with an indication that it would be spread over 3 financial years, 2019-22. They have carried out significant clearance work to date and installed temporary classrooms, toilet and changing room facilities as well as secure fencing around damaged areas to allow pupils to return to site in February. Unfortunately, on-site work was halted on 23 March due to government restrictions, however these works will recommence as soon as permitted with a view to being completed by the new term in August.

The Project Team held a closed consultation event on 12 March and our group members attended to feed the Parent Council vision into the consultation process. An open consultation event was scheduled for 16th March, however instead they ran an online consultation to seek views from the wider school community on what works well in the current school, what doesn’t work well and the longer-term vision for the site. The consultation closed on 30th April and there were 239 responses with a good cross section of respondents. The Project Team also had a video consultation with Mr Wilson and a small group of pupils to ensure their views were captured from the beginning of the process. The general themes raised throughout the 3 strands of consultation to date were very similar to those the Parent Council had already identified which is great news for the project as it demonstrates community cohesion and support for the project.

Work on the feasibility study continues, although at a slower pace than originally anticipated and is now expected to conclude in July. The Team are in the process of considering the detailed responses and feeding in learning from the current pandemic, including guidance from Scottish Government and renewed expectations on digital learning and use of spaces. The feasibility study will include a review of the project programme. As proposals will involve phasing and coordinating construction around day-to-day school activities, the project timeline will take longer than first anticipated. Further detail will become available once the feasibility report has been finalised and we progress to the next stage of the design process. A period of further engagement and consultation will be undertaken as we progress to the next stage of the design process and the Team are considering how to take this forward effectively in the current circumstances.

Thanks were expressed by the Chair to the building team , Catriona and SBC for all the work and terrific progress to date.

**Action**

It was agreed that we would invite Catriona to our next MS teams conference on the topic of returning to school to discuss the building plans so that if decisions are being made the community are kept up to date during the summer.

**Dates of proposed future meetings;**

Thursday 20th August 2020 (School Improvement Plan)

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Tuesday 27thth October 2020

Thursday 19th November 2020

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Tuesday 9th February 2021

Thursday 18thth March 2021

Wednesday 21st April 2021

Tuesday 8th June 2021 ( AGM)

In addition we would aim to hold at least 2 additional post holder meetings – early Sept and January dates tbc) There will also be meetings of the new charity if established during the session date tbc.)

The school calendar has not been completed but we will confirm these dates as soon as possible.

Congratulations also to the school for the success of the PHS Debating club as Sottish winners again! Not forgetting the National 4th year Maths prize won this session for a second time. Well done all.

A date was discussed to talk about return to school in August with the PC before the end of the session. Mr. Wilson agreed to come to that on MS teams. Date tbc.

Thanks were given to the Chair from Susan Jarvis on behalf of the PC for all the work done in this exceptional year.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.