**PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**



**Parent Council Meeting**

**21st April 2021**

**Teams Meeting**

**Attendees**:

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| Glenda Barton, Chair, Parent Council (PC) | c. 38 parents attended |
| Campbell Wilson, Head Teacher Gemma Douglas (NPF)David Winton (SfL)Lindsay Spear (DYW) | Justin Noon (Depute Head)Kirstie CarvalhoTrish Timmons (SfL) |
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**Minutes**

**Welcome, Introductions, Apologies & Minutes Glenda Barton, Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that this is a safe space and should not be recorded.

Next month’s meeting is exclusively dedicated to the plans for the new school. Date TBC but possibly 20 May. Following that, AGM in June.

The Chair welcomed all guests and speakers to the meeting and the following updates were given:

* We are revising the constitution, making everything clear, the organisation structure, posts holder roles and information is now on phsparents.org. We’d welcome your feedback on these draft documents – please email phspc@outlook.com with any comments. The Chair thanked all post holders for their input to this, particularly Sarah Duncan who wrote up the final version.

See link below;

<https://phsparents.org.uk/about>

* After the fire of November 2019, the intention was to have an event (a summer garden party) to offer thanks to the many organisations and individuals who assisted at the time, but this was of course not possible. However, to show our thanks to Gala Academy for accommodating our senior students, a trophy has been purchased to donate to the school. The wording on the trophy is “The Galashiels Academy Cup For Respect Shown To Others. Donated by a grateful Peebles High School”. Many thanks to Claire Barrett for organising this for us.
* We were fortunate to receive an award this year from the Community Climate Asset Fund, which is Scottish Government money invested to support the green recovery in Scotland’s communities. We received a total of £2407 to contribute to climate education, involving the school and local community in maximising the use of the garden space at PHS through growing plants, vegetables etc. The aim is to increase community food growing, reduce local carbon emissions by growing plants and produce food locally to reduce food miles. We have worked closely with the Eco Committee and PHS staff to identify the required assets and have an agreement with local supplier Harbro to purchase from their store. Items include wheelbarrows, wellies, plants, seeds, trees, benches, and tools. Some pupils have already been involved in working in the garden, and more sessions will be planned now following the return to school. Volunteers from the local community will also be involved in developing the garden. Thanks to Eco Committee, parents Sarah Keen for all her work in the application process , Lorna Smith who is organising all the deliveries too and Susan Jarvis our eco-lead on the PC.

**Running effective meetings for all Claire Wildsmith**

One in six of us has hearing loss to some degree, and Claire reminded us how to make online meetings as accessible as possible for all:

* If using a headset, move the mic away so as not to obscure the mouth, to aid lipreading, and also to avoid feedback.
* When presenting, glance at the camera from time to time if you can.
* Rename your profile if necessary.
* Video meetings (Zoom, Teams) are easier than physical meetings – from home, no need for babysitter, travel, parking space, etc.
* Enable live captions option (subtitles) – automatic on Teams . Can help even if you don’t have hearing loss.
* Possibility of taking breaks - staring at a screen for prolonged periods is not the best for our eyes – even a 2 min break can help.

With shops and businesses reopening, Claire has SBC funding to support local business with positive communication support. Email Claire at Positivepeebles@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**National Parent Forum (Borders) Gemma Douglas**

Gemma is our representative for the Borders, and she updated us on the work of the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS) which works to make parents’ voices heard at a national as well as local level. **See appendix 1** for full details, but particularly of note:

The ‘In a Nutshell’ series on the NPFS website highlights topics such as online Safety etc.

Their next webinar is on the Alternative Certification Model – see links in the appendix.

**Nurture Update (Support for learning) Trish Timmons & David Winton**

**Staff Development** – in line with SBC, recently delivered 2 staff development sessions to the whole school. Focused on the 6 principles of Nurture.

**Staffing** – David Winton lead teacher, Jane McIver, ANA, and partners in Youth Work. Other schools are advertising youth worker posts -maybe we will in future.

**Funding** – received £2k from SBC to develop our nurture groups. Already spent and would like to get help for new blinds in the space.

David then described the structure of the day in The Store, how it differs from the rest of the school and how this benefits the social & emotional wellbeing of the young people who attend.

They can be more flexible than the usual school curriculum, picking topics to build self-confidence & self-esteem such as motorcycle maintenance.

The Store is also a safe, quiet space which benefits young people who find the environment in school over-stimulating. The last year of the pandemic has caused high levels of anxiety and stress and a lot of young people are struggling to come into school or can’t cope in classes. The Store gives them a quiet calm environment where they can then move back into main school.

The young people have painted the hall with murals, the emblem is the sunflower. The Store would love for parents to come and visit, as soon as allowed. Hope to have an open morning and this will be publicized by the PC.

The Chair asked for costings for blinds for the PC to look at the request.

Action: Trish Timmons to advise cost for blinds, and any other items required.

**DYW (Developing Young Workforce) Lindsay Spear**

Lindsay Spear, our DYW School Coordinator for PHS gave an overview of DYW and her role at the school:

There are 21 DYW regional groups across Scotland.

·         DYW Borders was established in 2017

·         At its core, DYW are here to bridge the gap between education and the world of work. Lindsay is the teacher’s direct link to industry and will help and support teachers’ set up industry engagement to bring work skills alive in the classroom

·         We will work with key industry partners to lead activity to help young people develop their career management skills

·         Although we are there to help ALL young people, there will be a focus on those that are furthest away from the labour market to ensure work-based opportunities for those that need it most

·         DYW School Coordinators are not careers advisors, but will work closely with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Community Learning & Development (CLD), the pastoral team etc

·         We work on a No Wrong Path basis. We are to support young people in thinking out of the box in terms of career choices linked to their skills and interests and help sign post them to the many different pathways they could take to achieve the right job role for them. This will help them be more work-ready and aware of different opportunities available to them

·         Focus on having/using the same skills language as sometimes education and industry can come from different angles

·         Our approach should reflect the school’s demographic as well as the local labour market

·         Will try and re-engage and update parents and pupils on the value of apprenticeships and how they look now in the modern world and change the stigma attached. There are 3 main types of Apprenticeships – Foundation, Modern and Graduate. Please click on the following link for more in depth information on [apprenticeships](https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/apprenticeships/#:~:text=SDS%20administers%20Scottish%20Apprenticeships%20on%20behalf%20of%20Scottish,experience%20and%20skills%20that%20employers%20want%20to%20see.)

 ·         An SDS Survey found the following when they asked what industry and young people thought were the top 3 most important factors when recruiting –

Industry:

1. Aptitude & readiness to work
2. Broader skills; listening, presenting, problem solving
3. Academic Results/Qualifications

  Young People:

1. Good Exam result
2. University Degree
3. Positive Attitude

 ·         For the first part of this year, we have collected data/information from PT’s on past industry engagements, current industry engagements and future asks. This work will help us to re-engage with businesses who may have not been able to engage during Covid, re-establish these relationships to be able to deliver activity again as well as reach out to new businesses and speakers to match the future asks.

More useful links:

[www.dyw.scot/apprenticeships.html](http://www.dyw.scot/apprenticeships.html)

peebleshighschool.org.uk/pupil-zone/career-index/

**Questions raised:**

**Could school give time for pupils to do volunteer work during term time?**

Lindsay: They would be happy to look into this **.**

Action : PC To support DYW and to create a space on our website for careers (Glenda Barton)

**Learning and Teaching Framework Justin Noon/Kirstie Carvalho**

Mr. Noon & Dr Carvalho presented an [update (slides 1 – 7).](https://phsparents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Learning-Teaching-Framework-Update-and-Planning-2021-2.pptx)  The number 1 priority in school for all young people is to experience consistently excellent L&T in school as this has the biggest impact on young people’s outcomes.

The Parent Council is asked to fund the purchase of “Iris” cameras and subscription to support this L&T work. The Iris system records teachers in lessons to watch back and share with other teachers to model behaviour.

ACTION: Mr Noon to submit detailed costings to PC for consideration.

The Chair confirmed that we are proposing £2K and no objections were submitted.

**Questions raised :**

**How will you measure success?**

Young people and parental feedback – using annual surveys

Self-evaluation by teachers, during open doors days and observing lessons

Staff engaging in learning and continuous improvement

Young people and parents working together and that supporting learning at home

Attainment should get better. Trying to close the poverty attainment gap

**Planning for 2021/2022 Campbell Wilson/Justin Noon**

Mr. Noon showed slides on the [School Improvement Plan for 2021/22 (slides 8 – 14)](https://phsparents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Learning-Teaching-Framework-Update-and-Planning-2021-2.pptx)

Not focusing on ‘catching up’ but really focusing on Consistently Excellent Learning: using the PHS Learning Structure.

The Chair explained our goal is to input to the planning process so our activities fall our of the SIP. Ie PC work collectively with a plan for 2021/22 alongside the school

**Head teacher update /open forum Campbell Wilson**

Mr Wilson thanked parents – young people are adhering to wearing masks and the behaviour and the buzz at school has been fantastic.

**Covid:** Risk assessments are in place for next week and I will be seeking every family’s support in reinforcing the messages of 2m social-distancing and all-day facemasks with all our young people. I am concerned about complacency given the national context of rapidly decreasing cases and will be sharing strong messages with all young people at year group assemblies this Friday morning.

 **S6 leavers:** The prescribed date for S6 leavers this year is Monday 31st May. I am hopeful that we can host some sort of graduation for them and will attempt to help facilitate a Summer Prom too if possible. If Covid/Government guidelines allows this, **some parent helpers would be very welcome**. (Get in touch with phspc@outlook.com if you wish to offer help)

**Staffing:** Kirsty Wylie started in the Social Subjects faculty this week. Dorothy Welander (ANA) is retiring after 25 years at Peebles High School supporting some of our most vulnerable young people. Staffing has been very settled recently. That said, our pre-timetable staffing audit indicates a need to recruit more teaching staff for next session.

**Actions from last month’s meeting:**

**S3 careers interviews**- all S3 either have had, or will have, a consultation with Chris Conway before the summer holidays. No detriment approach (cover that in my SQA section). I asked the question re transitioning from School to FE/HE of government. No answer given. Survey on home learning for young people. Plans for this were stopped when it became apparent that we would all be returning to school. I approached David Denton and Donald MacDonald re telephone parents’ evenings, and they had been successful and popular at Boroughmuir. Have not had a response from Gillespie’s.

**SQA:**  I am very conscious that there is significant anxiety in our community at the moment in terms of both the demands of SQA and the AMC. Please take cognisance of and comfort in the fact that thankfully nothing has changed since Mr Fagan’s comprehensive communication on 19th March

**Spread of assessments:** Assessments are spread as much as they can be. There are some exams on concurrent days but there are reasons for that. We are not, at this point, allowed to use external invigilators meaning all assessments must be supervised by class teachers normally at the time those teachers would have that class. This means the ability to spread assessments is extremely limited. That said, given that offering study leave is not an option. We are offering significant in class opportunity to study during periods 1 and 2.

**Weighting of assessments:** It is not all about these assessments. Think of it as a ratchet model. We want your child to get the best grade we can evidence for them. We will use the best ‘highly predictive’ evidence we can for each child in each course. It is likely that, for the majority, that grade will be achieved in these end of session assessments.

**Workload for young people:** Recognising the unique and unusual combination of circumstances for young people this year, we are working with Quarriers to offer some bespoke support to offer young people appropriate resilience training with qualified resilience counsellors from Quarriers. Please tell me tonight what you think would work and we will work with Quarriers to design something to be in place by 10th May. They will also offer evening virtual support.

**Questions raised:**

**Timetable from Mr. Fagan, then at Easter there were additional class tests put in…then after Easter there seemed to be more. Young people were planning over Easter but now have more tests they weren’t expecting.**

Once the Nat 5 diet is underway, there will be no further in-class assessments added.

From today to 10 May there will be no more Nat 5 after that.

Once the formal assessment diet starts, there will not be further assessments added.

Teachers are trying to make sure young people are best prepared for the tests. The beauty of this is young people can afford not to nail it in one day, they can get feedback from teachers to improve.

**Teachers could reassure them their grade is not just based on exams**

The tests are to give feedback to show them what to focus on

**By 27 May PHS is to complete as much of the assessment work as they can, then start moderating these proposals towards June. We thought there was time after May, to mid-June, if a child hadn’t done well. what’s the rush?**

Teachers have to mark – it’s a huge marking task this year – marking, moderating, meeting other teachers in the Borders to validate grades, moderate standards and make sure they’re on the national standard and in agreement.

**Is it the same paper for these formal assessments across Scotland, just done at different times?**

Yes, but not solely those papers. Departments are using papers they’ve devised themselves and ratified.

**Some notifications coming through Teams at e.g., 1.30am Request to not have YP getting notifications late at night**

I don’t want that either and I’ll incorporate that in the teachers’ bulletin.

**Young people who need extra support for exam, e.g., a reader – will they be disadvantaged in these quick tests?**

We’re trying to match that wherever we can. They are in place for the formal assessments diet.

**Different subjects interpreting the guidance differently. It would be a big help if there was a timetable for all additional tests, please?**

These should all be on SMHW – not there yet – ACTION CW will look into this

**Moderation of dissertations – is there challenge**

Yes absolutely it would be moderated and cross-marked same as an exam. Teachers across different schools. Not all courses at every level will have cross-school marking, but there is significant sampling for SQA.

**What are plans for S1 – S3 who have missed so much face-to-face teaching, making friendships, etc.**

The Learning Framework will have most impact - getting our young people in feeling safe & valued, find out where they are in their learning and move forward from there. Hoping things like DofE might be looked at again, that’s about mental wellbeing, socializing, opportunities, etc.

**Any plans for something social for S1?**

We don’t know what would be allowed so we have no plans at the moment, similar to the S6 graduation and a prom, we can’t put dates on, but it is an intention from me.

**Are S1 and S2 going to be streamed in maths soon?**

S2 are streamed. Current S1 are in their form classes but as they move into S2 there will be some streaming for the new S2.

**S2 reports – have they had them?**

ACTION CW to check

**Sexual harassment - how are both SBC and PHS responding to the acknowledgement that it is widespread in schools? How do we safeguard young people from sexual harassment in PHS?**

Education in Personal Support/Pastoral and Social Education are very clear about appropriate behaviours and how to report inappropriate behaviours. The right messages are getting to our young people from our pastoral staff.

**If parents are not sure how to report, they can contact PC anonymously and we can raise with school.**

**Curriculum – why are they not teaching anything new? Teacher has said all they will be doing is revising up to the exam.**

However the Chair mentioned that Mr Fagan had explained a requirement of the SQA for any award is to complete the course as well as the assessments, course completion will continue up until June 14th.

ACTION: CW & PC to pick up

**The meeting closed at 9.35pm**

**Appendix 1 :**

**Gemma Douglas, Scottish Borders Representative for the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFS)**

My name is Gemma Douglas , I am a mum to four children, my daughter is in S3 at Kelso High school, I also have 3 little boys 5,3, and 1.5 years old.

I am Chair Person at Kelso High School Parent Council.

I am the Scottish Borders Rep for the National Parent Forum Scotland.

I took on this role in September 2020 not really knowing to much about it all, since then I have never stopped learning.

I do my best to be the voice for Parents and Carers here in the borders at a local level with SBC and I also make our voices heard at a national level as well.

I help co-ordinate our Chairs Forum meetings with SBC. I hold Chairs Get Together to help empower each other, share resources give helpful advice.

I collate concerns, issues and questions to be answered here at a local level plus I take take these to a national level and make sure our voice from here in the borders is heard all over Scotland.

I am currently putting together a better supportive network for all of our Parent Councils here in the borders so we have a gold pot of information to pull from when needed.

I sit on various different groups at a national level such as The GIRFEC Stakeholders Engagement Group, The Review of Co-ordinated Support Plans. I have been part of so many different focus groups excluding Education Scotland, Public Health Scotland, SQA. Always giving the views of parents and carers from here in the borders.

The National Parent Forum Scotland is made up currently of 29 Reps from the 32 local Authorities in Scotland. Our Chairs is Margaret Wilson, we have a leadership team made up of five vice chairs. We are all volunteers.

The forum works in partnership between parents and carers with national and local government and other organisations involved in education and child wellbeing issues to ensure that parents play a full and equal roll in education.

The overall aim is to help every child to maximise their potential through their school life.

We work with a wide range of national groups and organisations to represent the views of parents.

Here are just a few of the different groups and organisations we work with

CERG , Covid-19 Education Recovery Group

Scottish Qualifications Authority Advisory Group

NQ21

Advisory Group for Additional Support Learning

National Improvement Framework

Children in Scotland

Convention of Scotland Local Authorities

Curriculum and Assessment Board

NPFS supports Parents to get involved in their child’s education by,

Running focus groups and online surveys for parents to have their say

Holding national and local events such as conferences and information days

Keeping parents up to date with the latest educational developments through their website, e-newsletter and social media channels

Supporting local parent councils by providing advice, information and practical help.

Providing parent friendly information through the “In a Nutshell” series

We have a vast range of “In a Nutshell” series here are just a few

Learning at Home in Lockdown

Blended learning

STEM

Online Safety

Securing your devices

Learner journey

Empowering Parents

Early Learning and Childcare

All course choices are covered

Please check these out on our website you will not be disappointed.

We have recently been holding webinars with Public Health Scotland, Scottish Government representatives, SQA all so we can give to a chance to have your say and ask the questions that are important to you.

They have been a huge success and we have another all about the Alternative Certification Model with guests from

SQA

Scottish Youth Parliament

Association of Directors of Education Scotland

School Leaders Scotland

Educational Institute of Scotland

This is on 4th May 7.30pm register here and get your questions on the list for the evening

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/qa-with-npfs-sqa-and-guests-on-the-alternative-certification-model-tickets-151785966913>

I am here to help in anyway I can , please speak with your chair person about any worries you may be having at the moment, this past year has been extremely difficult and so much information about all of the changes that are happening can be a little overwhelming. If we don’t know the answer we will definitely find someone who does know the answers.

 Our website [www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk) Join our e-newsletter to keep updated

My email Scottish.borders@npfs.org.uk

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