

**PHS Parent Council**

**31 August 2021**

**Teams Meeting**

**Attendees**:

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| --- | --- |
| Sarah Duncan, Chair, Parent Council (PC)Campbell Wilson, HeadteacherDonna Moretta, Depute HeadSusan Jarvis, PC, Learning & Teaching LeadAlex Corbishley, PC, Learning & Teaching Lead | c. 39 parents attended |

**Minutes**

**Welcome & Matters Arising Sarah Duncan, Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, shared the parental engagement diagram and explained the various ways you can get involved with your child’s learning.

We welcome interested parents & careers on the Parent Council as general members or working group members. We simply ask that you try to attend meetings regularly. If you would like to be an ordinary member or join a specific working group, please email your details to phspc@outlook.com.

**Update on working groups**

Susan Jarvis outlined the various working groups – the full transcript is in Appendix 1.

**Property** **Working Group** – all about the build of the new school. Lead: Sarah Duncan

**School Improvement Plan (SIP) -** To work in a collaborative way with the school the working groups are aligned with the main priorities of the school. The School Improvement Plan priority for 2021/22 is Teaching & Learning therefore this will be the only other main working group but will includes Wellbeing, Family & Community Learning, Learning Context (incl additional support needs). Leads: Susan Jarvis & Alex Corbishley

**SQA Results Campbell Wilson**

**Some highlights:**

67% of S4’s attained 5 x National 5s (3 yr average is 70.8%)

76.6% of S5’s attained 5 x National 5s

57% of S6 left school with 5 Higher level awards which is the highest it’s ever been.

A parent commented that some of those very hard working leavers are moving on to great things, and a significant minority are very grateful for the input of Ruth, Alex and Mhairi in preparing them for university applications and interviews.

Parents noted that our best year overall was 2019, however the strong 2021 results places the school among the highest in the Scottish Borders and South of Scotland.

**The School Vision, Values & Mission Statement Campbell Wilson/Donna Moretta**

Mr Wilson and Mrs Moretta shared slides on the new school vision – the full set of slides can be found [here](https://phsparents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/PC-Vision-Engagement.pptx). The PC was reminded of the school’s Values of Compassion, Wisdom, Integrity & Justice. Mrs Moretta shared the new vision which was taken to staff on 16 August and asked for parents’ support and feedback:

Everyone Learning Well

Everyone Living Well

Everyone Loved

‘The 3 L’s’

There is a possible 4th ‘L’ of ‘Everyone Leading’

**Summary of Parents’ Feedback:**

* Like the simplicity of 3 statements
* Would like to hear how the young people respond (especially the word ‘love’ – might be a bit cringy for teenagers)
* Largely supportive of the use of ‘love’, however understand the anxiety around it
* Could be more aspirational/ambitious rather than just ‘well’

(Full Parents’ Feedback is in Appendix 2)

**Please pass any further feedback or ideas to the Parent Council by email or contact the school.**

Mr Wilson keen to hear if parents are on board with the 4 values too? Consensus was parents are happy with the values, and 4 are enough! How could we get greater input from parents? Happy to work together with someone to go out to parent community if that’s needed?

**Head Teacher Report**

Extra curricular – hockey & rugby is back, netball soon. Please be patient, we are getting things back.

Vaccinations are available in school tomorrow for 16/17 year olds.

Covid also having an impact on social times. Split lunchtimes are being enjoyed by some but balancing this against the negative impact on extra-curricular clubs. Intention is to get back to single lunch, but have to keep young people safe.

Good news:

Congrats to Caroline Connor, in the office – swam the English Channel!

Congrats to Jillian Whitehead – expecting a baby in new year – start mat leave after Xmas holidays.

Congrats Jo Rorison – who got married - now Mrs Wilson!

Congrats to Bethany Ellis – is now Mrs Macfarlane

Mr Wilson passed his driving test!

Mrs Moretta recently celebrated 31 years at PHS

Best news of all on 18 August our young people with more complex needs rejoined the school (following the fire). A new resource has been built especially for their needs and all staff are thrilled to have them back.

Welcome to new staff:

Additional Needs Assistants - Lisa Fialowski, Maria Harper, Kerry Black

Comms Support Work – Amy Meikle

Craig Gilfether – our new Busines Support Manager

NQT in Drama – Toby Wilson

Business Education – Suzanne Cleland

Chemistry / Science – Gavin Harkness

Physics/Science – Gwynn Wilson

English – Caroline Lewis

Justine McDuff, Charis Hogg, Amanda Forster, NQTG, Lyndsay Porteous, NQTHE

Good luck to Mr Fagan who has been posted to Jedburgh Grammar for one year secondment

Mr Wilson advised the Parent council that one of the young people who was responsible for the fire in November 2019 is due to return to PHS, and he asked for the support of the PC in making this decision. The Chair agreed that reintegrating the young person into the school would fit with the values of the school and Parent Council, and they should be given a second chance and an opportunity of education. The PC was largely supportive and agreed a specific communication to parents was not necessary.

**Open Q&A session Campbell Wilson, Head Teacher**

**What is the plan for parents evenings & progress reports this year? Particularly S4?**

CW: I’m determined we have parents evenings this year. They may be virtual. The school calendar is being put together just now and will be shared with parents. **The PC asked if S4s could be considered early in that programme.**

**What is happening with prelims – expected to be in Jan as usual but some teachers telling pupils they might be in November?**

CW: The main prelim diet is in January – this will be in the school calendar.

**Where can pupils store hockey sticks during the day (since fire)?**

**Action: Mr Wilson to feedback on this.**

**The STEM PT post last session has not continued - this is disappointing**

CW: That was a tough decision – because of budget pressures. There’s only one other school in Scotland (who have 2000 students and double budget) who has this dedicated post.

It was noted that PHS has lots of parents with careers in STEM who would be willing to support the school in this area.It was agreed for the PC Chair and school SMT to discuss how this work could be taken forward.

**Action: Sarah Duncan to contact SMT re STEM work moving forward**

**S1 and S6 buddies system - with Peeblesshire Youth Trust part of the programme. Any news?**

CW: There’s still a problem with cross-year contamination risk that’s not allowed yet.

Sarah Keen of PYT commented: Our S6 Buddy Up programme has had to be adapted this year due to ongoing Covid restrictions limiting the opportunities for partners to work in schools and groups of pupils from different years being able to mix. PYT continue to work closely with the school, to offer support where we can, and will ensure that we still match S6 Buddies where possible to more vulnerable S1 pupils, on a more targeted basis than our usual Buddy Up programme.

**Are there any plans for an S2 residential this year given they missed their P7 and S1 trips?**

CW: We have May 2022 booked in Aberdovey, in the hope that we can have a residential. We will be using a week slot but have to take views on which year group get that slot. Preferably S1 but I understand other years have missed out already.

**School uniform – why is it not being enforced?**

CW: That’s a fair comment at the moment. There is a problem with ties supply so S1s have not been given a tie yet but they are coming next week. Teachers were asked to ‘go easy’ just now due to these supply issues. There will be a big drive in September to tighten up on uniform policy.

**Will there be a prize giving this year?**

CW: We have the prize winners and yes there will be a prize giving – it may be virtual – in October.

**My S1 is not integrating with other S1s and not using canteen etc. What can be done?**

CW: Pastoral can help. If you have any concern re wellbeing/socialisation, speak to their pastoral teacher. If you don’t know who their pastoral teacher is the office can help.

**Could parents have access to the school bulletin?**

CW: There is a daily pupil bulletin. Ask your child to open their year group on Teams on their iPad – it’s there every day.

**Can potential enhanced provision parents come and visit, to see the new facilities?**

CW: As soon as Covid allows, yes.

**Will the swap shop be reopened soon?**

CW: As soon as Covid allows, yes.

**With Mr Fagan on secondment, how will SQA be managed?**

CW: I’m the SQA coordinator for the school – this is a role I’ve held previously.

**The meeting closed at 20:50**

Next meeting: Wednesday 6 October, 7pm.

**Helpful Info/Reminders**

**Parent Council Proposed Meeting dates 2021/22**

Tuesday 31st August 2021

Wednesday 6th October 2021

Thursday 18th November 2021

Tuesday 18th January 2022

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Thursday 21st April 2022

Tuesday 7 June 2022 (AGM)

**Post Holders**

Chair - Sarah Duncan

Vice Chair - Susan Jarvis

Secretary - Claire Barrett

Comms - Judith Ackerman

Taskforce - Rachel Beatton

Events - Dee Hollingsbee & Elodie Seller

Working Group leads:

SIP Priority T&L Framework - Susan Jarvis & Alex Corbishley

Property - Sarah Duncan

Friends of Peebles High School SCIO representative - Eric Nightingale

We welcome interested parents & careers on the Parent Council as general members or working group members. We simply ask that you try to attend meetings regularly. If you would like to be an ordinary member or join a specific working group, please email your details to**:** **phspc@outlook.com**

**Website: phsparents.org.uk**

**Twitter:** @PHSparents @PeeblesHigh

**Appendix 1: Working Groups Update – Susan Jarvis**

In the last few years working groups have been developed and run within the Parent Council in a highly responsive way – to issues relating to the fire and then Covid.  We hopefully have a chance to step back a little bit and be able to plan what our PC working groups will focus on.

Property working group – Sarah is leading on this – but awaiting further information. This group covers the building of the new school and will alert the parent forum as to opportunities to contribute to the process.

The School are in the final phase of developing their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP outlines the main priorities for the school to improve on in the coming year.  Once this is finalised we will publish this on the PHS Parents website.

In order to work in a fully integrated and collaborative way with the School, it is proposed that the working groups of the Parent Council this coming year will align with the SIP priorities.  As mentioned, the SIP is not yet finalised but we expect the main Working Group will focus on Learning and Teaching as this is a priority for the school.  The School has developed a Learning and Teaching framework and are focussing on implementation of this within the school.

So while the overall Parent council working group will focus on Learning and Teaching there will likely be work streams within this that align with the SIP priorities, most likely focussing on:

·         Wellbeing – improving wellbeing, and the relationship between wellbeing and learning and teaching

·         Family and Community Learning – involvement of the wider community and families in supporting learning and teaching

·         Learning Context – improving the environment and relationships to enhance learning – learning experiences of young people, what is working, how do we measure success?  Consideration of additional support needs for young people in the learning environment.

So still some things to firm up, but we think they best way forward is to align our working groups with the SIP and be able to have greater focus.

We need to be really clear at the outset what the remit of the working groups will be, manage expectations of the school and the parent council, and to ensure good communication throughout the year.

We are proposing that Alex Corbishley and myself will lead on the overall learning and teaching working group, but if anyone is interested in contributing to the working group or work streams then please do get in touch via the Parent council email address.

**Appendix 2: Parents’ Feedback to the Vision**

*Support using word ‘love’ and think it’s appropriate*

*Like the simplicity of 3 statements*

*Language needs refining for teenagers*

*Think Learning & Wellbeing are equal*

*I like that it is simple and easy to understand and should translate well across the school.
It would be interesting to understand how the young people will respond to love, I feel that they may not be entirely comfortable with it??*

*I don't think everyone can be a leader....imagine the chaos..... and not everyone wants to be a leader....so maybe not Everyone Leading (in response to the suggestion of having a 4th L – “Everyone Leading”)*

*A round table kind of view might be better, as in all equal*

*Lots of effective communicators are firm believers in the rule of three… varying interpretations of what leadership is can be tricky to navigate. I’d be supportive of the use of ‘love’, however I understand the anxiety around it.*

*I like the use of 'love' and the three statements. Could be more aspirational, instead of learning well could it be learning to the best of ability*

*My other suggestion would be to reframe the statement about “judgement”, to use acceptance so that it’s presented as a positive?*

*Like the word ‘love’. Everyone ‘feeling’ loved. First 2 parts are what the young person is doing, the 3rd is what is happening to the child.*

*Shanarri indicators could be used to define “well”*

*However shanarri indicators are not easy to articulate, and I think could make it all very complex , I think the feeling loved would be less cringy for teenagers*

*I like the use of the word ‘love’ but do think we need more ambition and aspiration than the word ‘well’*

*Thinking about how they might be measured could help with clarifying the aims?*

*safe, secure children are able to learn well, and relate to others well, and know and trust people*

Mrs Moretta: we know most of our children feel nurtured as that is one of the measures we’re tracking.

*Some children don’t feel safe and secure in school but they do at home.*

*perhaps the mission needs to more obviously link school function and home better*

*I like the learning, living, loved approach*

*??? Excellent learning, Positive living, Feeling loved*

*I’m really keen to hear what the students think… *