

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING of 28 APRIL 2021 via TELECONFERENCE

Parent Members: N Bradley (Chair)

L Gurney

H Way

S Spring

S Grant

J Leslie

E Clark

L Johnston

D Edmondson

N Meikle

Staff Members: L Rodger, Head Teacher

R Jones

F McCallum

Other Parents: M Hay, J Massie, E Mwembo, K Stevens, G Milne

Attending: Cllrs J Findlay and J Goodfellow, Elected Members

A Cosgrove, Clerk

Welcome: The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting of 16 March: These were approved.

SQA Assessments Update: Fraser McCallum updated the meeting on progress, explaining the amount of time spent on preparation of assessments and feedback. The assessment conditions had been communicated to pupils numerous times over the past few weeks, so all should be aware of them. The SQA Code of Conduct was also noted.

Questions were invited from parents. These included whether the whole exam model could be reassessed; was there consistency between schools, and was the process the same for National 5s and Highers. A lot of sympathy was expressed for S5s, who as yet had no national exam experience, and there was concern for S3s going into the system next year.

Mrs Rodger, on the issue of consistency, advised that each school would submit samples of assessments for moderation across the local authority in order to be as accurate as possible.

School Expansion: Robert Jones explained which departments would be improved through the expansion works, and that although most walls were in fixed positions, all the internal fit out was still to do. He asked if parents would like to form a sub-group to consider the best use of the fit out and wider expansion issues including the land, emphasising that parental input was valuable.

The Chair advised that he had had a look at the plans, and if any PC members were interested in being part of a sub-group, to contact Mr Jones direct.

On a question of possible expansion of the PE department, Mrs Rodger said that the School would really have welcomed a new Sports Hall and it was very disappointing that this was not happening because the numbers required did not meet the threshold.

Mr Jones advised that the new buildings would be handed over by the Easter break of 2022.

Action – The Chair to liaise with Mr McDonald to make representation to the Council regarding sports facilities.

Safer Routes to School/Active Travel: Responses from parents were sought from parents to a survey being organised by Law Primary PC; although it was focused on the primary school it affected the High School, especially on Fridays. The survey was to be completed the following day and the Chair would send a link round later that evening.

Appointment of New Chair: The Chair reiterated that a new Chair was sought to take over the following year. He would remain in post until the end of the session. If any parent was interested, please contact him for information.

Any Other Business: Mrs Rodger was asked if the current staff member providing counselling, who was retiring, would be replaced, and she advised that the school was currently considering this, taking account of new provision for mental health support from the local authority. Parents and pupils had appreciated the informal nature of the support provided.

Overcrowding on School Buses: The Chair advised that a service bus closely followed the school bus in the morning on the coastal route, so there was an option if the earlier bus was too full.

Long queues at Lunchtimes/lack of vegetarian options: Mrs Rodger advised that there is hot food available in the canteen. She noted the issue of lack of vegetarian options. Mrs Rodger will discuss this with the canteen supervisor.

Catcalling of students and young women in the street in North Berwick: The Chair had followed this up with Cllr Goodfellow who had reported it to the Community Police officers. No more incidents had been reported, and the Police were sharing information with the Well Being team.

Date of Next Meeting: June 1st 2021.