

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING of 5 OCTOBER 2021 via TELECONFERENCE

Parent Members: G Milne (Vice Chair)

L Gurney
H Way
J Leslie
A Clark
L Johnston
A Beedel
S Wellwood
C Jones
S Spring
L Forrest
T Heal
T O'Connor
M Hay

Staff Members: M Moore, Head Teacher
L Neri

Other Parents: W Ford, Z Lovell, D Lumsden, M Kay, K Dunwoodie, A N Other.

Pupils Attending: L Smith, J Aganvala

Attending: Cllr J Goodfellow, Elected Member
A Cosgrove, Clerk

Welcome: The Vice Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Appointment of Vice Chair: Gillian was agreeable to taking up the post of Chair if a Vice Chair could be appointed. Anna Beedel was nominated by Michelle Hay and agreed by all present.

Minutes of Meeting of AGM of 21 September: These were approved.

Noted that any relevant matters relating to the June meeting would be discussed at the following meeting.

Google Classroom and Assessment Dates: There were a number of questions about work being available on this platform, including accessibility for children out of school for whatever reason, and pupils' concerns about not being able to access all lessons. Ms Moore advised that no gaps in learning were desirable, and what worked well last year was being examined but it remained a work in progress. She had ascertained that no additional items had been put into subjects by the SQA and last year's course modifications remain. Subject specific knowledge would be helpful so parents would be assured that subjects were the same as last year. She noted that with the changes to contact tracing, fewer pupils should be out of school for Covid isolation.

Questions were also asked on Google Summaries; how assessments contributed to grades, and whether exams would take place next year. Ms Moore said that NBHS was working on the premise that prelim exams and final exams would take place although the physical format was likely to be different: if there were no exams, work would be assessed in an ongoing and periodic way like any other normal year where teachers use assessment information to submit estimates to SQA, and parents needed to know that all East Lothian schools were working in the same way.

A meeting on this year's Prelims has taken place and communication from ELC to parents is imminent. No final word on exams from the SQA may not be received until April 2022.

Catch up on Immunisation programme: Ms Neri advised that every pupil who had missed out on various immunisations was on the system, and would be followed up.

Respect for Community and Environment: Concerns had been raised by parents about closure of toilets during school hours, and Ms Moore reported that there had been high levels of graffiti, vaping and anti social behaviour. She reassured parents that no child was prevented from going to a toilet, although there had been greater awareness of poor behaviour.

In the Sports Centre, as the café was not yet open and there had been non compliance with Covid restrictions. Poor behaviour could be partly explained by 18 months of disruption and School was addressing this through Assembly discussions, and help from the Community Police Officer , but she requested parental support in dealing with this.

On a question of poor behaviour in the Lodge, this had been reported to the Community Warden, and the work done by youth workers was noted.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Ms Neri described this as hugely important and was glad that staff and pupils took this seriously. She advised that teachers carried out well-being checks in class. Teachers had had a lot of training in mental health first aid and suicide prevention and see young people weekly in PSE. She noted the Mental Health Triage with the local Mental Health Worker (MHW), where young people could be referred for counselling or therapy. Pupils could still be referred to CALMS but there was a long waiting list and much more useful to have the MHW on site.

Guidance staff met weekly with DHTs to discuss caseloads and help was given by North Berwick Youth project in various forms.

Pupils were good and had set up their own Health and WellBeing Committee, providing revision booklets, advice and guidance for managing stress and other activities, and support staff were being upskilled to deal with low level anxiety.

Some questions were asked about MyPas, with some parents noting that they had had no follow up.

Head Teacher Report: Ms Moore had put a video together which would be on the School website, speaking to her previous experience at NBHS and also as an Education Manager at City of Edinburgh, where she was responsible for 8 secondary schools.

Her immediate priorities were: communication with staff, families and siblings of children she had previously taught: the Health and Wellbeing of pupils, families and staff. She wanted to think about communication with parents and would work closely with the Parent Council on this.

It was important to have a shared collective ambition for the school, and she noted great progress in Learning and Teaching and an Inspection Report she described as "wonderful".

On the Curriculum, S1 and S2 were being looked at this year. It was important to link the Parent Council agenda to the Improvement Plan.

She also mentioned the positive destinations from the school, which were 99.6% positive and increased attainment from ASN and Care Experienced pupils.

Code of Conduct: Parent Members were reminded that some of the information shared at meetings was confidential.

Further questions: On the Astroturf, footwear must be changed before using the pitch. Mr McDonald was hoping to organise lunchtime activities to emphasise proper usage.

Questions were still being asked about the lack of food in the canteen: it was noted that the new canteen would be much larger.

Dates of Meetings during 2021-22: November 24, January 26, March 7, April 28 and June 14.