

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: N Bradley (Chair)
J Leslie (until Item 3)
D Edmundson
G Milne
L Gurney
L Turnbull
E Davidson
K Dunwoody
M Kay
I Armstrong
L Johnston
S Grant
E Clark
J Waddell (Staff)

Pupils: H Fish
K Davidson

Attending: Lauren Rodger, Head Teacher

In attendance: Cllr J Goodfellow (during Item 3)
F McCallum, Staff
Allison Cosgrove, Clerk

Apologies: S Spring and N Meikle.

1. *Welcome:* The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was agreed to have Item 3, School Catering, discussed first, to allow Mr Sadecki to leave.

2. *School Catering:*

Stoigwiew Sadecki, Catering Manager, spoke to parents, advising that there were a lot of changes in the pipeline relating to nutrition. A 25% reduction in sugar had to be achieved, as well as red meat not being permitted more than twice per week. This included breakfast, so if bacon rolls were served at breakfast, no red meat could be served at lunch. Salad would be accompanied by chicken and tuna as well as beef, and fruit would be used in cakes instead of sugar. However, there would be a cost implication in doing so. In addition, processed food such as ham and bacon, could only be served once per week.

He added that the Scottish Government view on drinks was to serve a diet version, but the School favoured a fruit-flavoured water which counted as 1 helping of fruit per day. This was thought to be more nutritious. Parents supported this view.

On a question as to how parents could promote healthy eating, Mr Sadecki asked that if pupils had something they wanted on the menu, they should just ask. Noted that sweets had been taken away.

Children in the second sitting often had no choice left and Mr Sadecki said he would ensure that more hot food was put out. Pre-ordering would be available from next year, and meanwhile more main meals and soup would be made available

Mrs Rodger noted that NBHS had the highest number of pupils in all 6 secondaries taking school meals and the speed of throughput was extremely quick. Future payment would be by fingerprint as forgotten cards often caused queues. There was a discussion on fingerprint technology.

Mr Sadecki was thanked for his presentation.

Sederunt – J Leslie left the meeting.

3. *Minutes of meeting of 1 October*: These were agreed to be a correct record.

Sederunt – Cllr Goodfellow joined the meeting.

4. *Matters arising* : On the Common School Day, Robert Jones was having a meeting on this matter shortly.

5. *Teaching Practices for Effective Learning*: Fraser MacCallum gave a presentation on the School's new document which provides a shared understanding of what effective learning and teaching looks like. Points highlighted were lesson structure with all lessons beginning in a similar way; learning goals and direct instruction. Consistency across all lessons was very important. He gave instances of differentiated learning, collaborative learning and other practices to constitute effective learning and teaching.

Mrs Rodger advised parents of the observations with BGE classes, which she described as a rigorous and robust process, and which had gone down well with staff. The Pupil Council had a sub-group on learning and teaching with staff. She asked if a member of the Parent Council could come in for a day to observe classes, following the class for a day to look at the learners' experience.

Mrs Rodger went on to briefly describe PLaCE, a partnership initiative with Edinburgh University, giving an outline of the programme, which tied in with the school's new Teaching Practices for Effective Learning document. Phase 2 would start after January and would go into more detail. On a question from Cllr Goodfellow on the number of ASN pupils involved in observations, she advised that most teachers were focusing on pupils without an additional support need. .

Sederunt – J Waddell and Fraser McCallum left the meeting.

6. *Head Teacher Report*: Mrs Rodger reported on the following matters:

Staffing – a report was made to the Parent Council

S1 Parents Evenings – Noted that the electronic booking system was currently going through the procurement process with the Council. It was hoped this would be in place next year.

Positive Behaviour Policy – this was issued to members for consideration, and feedback was requested.

Dress Code – Mrs Rodger explained the current policy in answer to a question raised.

Quality Improvement Service – Mrs Rodger had attended a recent meeting with the School's QIO; noted that the School was in Category 3, the highest place.

7. *Chair's Issues* – A query had been made to the Chair asking if the School could be considered as a Rights Respecting School. He would send information round for interest. K Davidson had some knowledge of this, and advised of a Model UN Conference taking place the following Friday. The school has set up a Rights Respecting School working group this session, comprising staff and pupils. Parental support will be welcomed as the school seeks to be recognised as an RRS.

8. *Date of next meeting* – 21 January, with the focus on Environmental Matters.