



## PENICUIK HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021  
AT 6 PM VIA ZOOM

### Present

Julie Begbie (Parent)  
Craig Biddick (Head Teacher)  
Sharon Bravey (Parent, Treasurer)  
Amanda Crawshaw (Parent)  
Pauline Kerr (Parent)  
Sharon Leitch (Parent)  
Pauline Pender (Parent, Chair)  
Jenny Sprott (Parent)  
Lynsey Weir (Minute Clerk)

### Apologies

Lorna Glasgow (Parent)

### ACTION

#### 1.0 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

PP opened the meeting by welcoming all to this zoom meeting. Apologies noted. PP offered congratulations to CB in his permanent appointment of Head Teacher.

#### 2.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

1) Previous minutes approved and no action points to note.

#### 3.0 TREASURERS REPORT

- 1) The balance of our account to the end of December is £5,946.02.
- 2) £405 will be issued for 50/50 club prizes.
- 3) It was agreed to donate £500 to the school. SB to arrange.

SB

#### 4.0 50/50 CLUB

1) The recent draws for the 50/50 club will be advised separately.

#### 5.0 SCHOOL MATTERS

- CB thanked all for their patience during these different times of adaption to school life.

- The Hub currently has around 39 students with 13 teachers and SMT in daily but the number in at any one time can be variable e.g. some only do mornings. These students are either Key worker children or vulnerable. We have flexibility to take more pupils should the need arise for families in future weeks i.e. if the parent returns to key work or if the student requires more guidance.
- We are trying to keep the school routine for those in school and those online as normal to our school day as possible. Students are to follow their timetable when home learning as much as possible to allow live learning to be scheduled but we appreciate circumstances can vary and other times may work better for others. Staff will carefully track engagement and the pupil contact team will look at the domestic situation and feed that into the pastoral and teaching teams.
- Parents evening for S4 was held last night via telephone appointments. Very positive feedback has been received.
- We are trying to keep the remote learning balance right but it is still very much a case of adjusting as we go. A Student Council meeting was held to request feedback and views.
- We are continuing to communicate with Parents via email and text where appropriate. CB advised that he plans to carry out telephone calls to parents to ask key questions and gain feedback. Survey will select a range of parents and their children who will complete a survey in Google classroom. A group of students with additional support needs and their parents will also be surveyed. This information will be used to inform on-going remote learning practice. Other consultation will develop including during any recovery phase.
- If we do eventually have a phased return it is likely to begin with the Seniors.
- Maths have a new part time teacher due to start in February.
- SQA have still not finalised assessment dates and it is unknown how if/when formal assessments will take place in school.

## **6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1) Pauline Kerr – What progress has been made with Maths provision cover? CB confirmed we have a phased return of a teacher and our new part time teacher will start in February. This will ease class cover and teaching. Pauline

Kerr highlighted the volume of work issued to S4 in the last week of term before Summer break.

- 2) Amanda Crawford – In terms of learning provision what are the plans for live learning in classes? CB confirmed that live teaching will take place and that staff will offer live learning slots based on the timetable. This newer form of delivery in Midlothian will continue to develop over time. CB stressed that staff will not be teaching live every lesson as that would not represent the normal face to face situation and students need independent learning time as well as feedback and interaction. The LA has developed Guidance for all schools based on national guidance and in line with the local context.
- 3) Sharon Bravey – Can anything be done regarding the communication of work to aid students with study planning? CB confirmed that students are encouraged to follow timetables as a guide but obviously things should be flexible according to family needs. Depending on planning some teachers may upload the workload the week prior. CB will be discussing remote learning with subject area leaders next week and looking for solutions to a range of issues that have been raised. The pupil contact team will feed back regarding individual issues and anxieties and teachers will be asked to respond to individual needs.
- 4) Sharon Leitch – Is there going to be a maths exam or results being based on assessment results? CB confirmed that we are awaiting information from SQA in relation to the alternative certification model (ACM) for Higher and Advanced Higher that will be similar to National 5. Formal assessments are an important part of that to form provisional grades and the current remote learning phase will place schools under pressure in terms of carrying out the assessments. SQA is updating information by 29 January and the DFM will make an announcement about schools re-opening after 15 February at Holyrood on Tuesday 2 February. More information for parents about SQA matters will come out shortly but the situation is still quite fluid.
- 5) Pauline Kerr – Problems with access to Achieve subscription were highlighted. CB will communicate information to Parents.
- 6) Sharon Bravey – What will happen with the subjects that contain practical elements? CB confirmed that a lot of these elements will be taken out and replaced with other learning material but we will receive final information in due course. The phased return for seniors will likely prioritise

those who have practical elements in their courses.

- 7.0** Date of next meeting is set as 10 March 2021. Future meeting dates are set as 4 May 2021 and 16 June 2021.

Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice to allow for Covid-19 restrictions.

**Name of Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Chairperson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Minutes Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_