

**Deans Community High School**

**Parent Council Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Attendees**

Pauline Allison (HT), Gillian Campbell, Eddie Carson (Acting Chair), Jo Robertson, Miss Riddell, Louise Hoolighan, Ade Fakoya, Diana Cheung, Janice Ritchie, Kirsty Clarke, Stuart Craigon, Morag, Dawn Fleming, Patricia Miller

**Apologies**

Angela Ritchie, Heather Marriott, Laura McMillan, Caroline Bennett

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Previous minutes
4. Temporary PC chair
5. School Improvement
  - update improvement plan
  - pupil equity fund
6. Parent workshops
7. Head Teacher's update
8. AOCB

**1. & 2. Welcome & Apologies**

As above.

**3. Minutes from the previous meeting were not present to be accepted by all attendees**

**4. Temporary Parent Council Chairperson**

Eddie has agreed to be temporary Chairperson in Angela's absence.

**5. School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan has been published and can be found on the school website <http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com>

Mrs Allison talked through the key elements of the plan incorporating

- update improvement plan

- Staff and Student Wellbeing ratings.
- Mentors in Violence Prevention training which the senior students will participate in.
- Student wellbeing check-ins twice a year
- All staff being trained in support mental health.
- Raising Attainment – learning and teaching to be of the highest quality.
- Improvement in literacy in Primary Transition cluster programme. This has been really successful and there is solid evidence it has been successful since pupils who were involved initially in this programme received better NAT 5 results than in previous years from same primary school. Pupils of S1-S3 not aware of their own level for literacy. Now conversations will take place with them – what level are they at and more importantly what can they do to improve their level
- School Attendance – lots of anxiety coming back to school post COVID. Currently attendance sitting between 80-90%. Our target is >91%. Mrs Bleach and Nicky Robertson (Family Link Officer) are working to improve attendance.
- Literacy & Numeracy sessions for S1-S3 will take place next week (5<sup>th</sup> October) run by the Maths and English Principal teachers providing an overview to parents/carers of the curriculum and providing guidelines on how parents/carers can support their young people.
- Wellbeing evening is currently being planned for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There will be a variety of different sessions available to parents/carers/pupils including Mental Health/Health Eating/Eating on a budget/General Wellbeing sessions. More information will be sent out to parents and will be available on the school website.
- A Mental Health Handbook has been developed which is a guide to support our young people with information on mental health. This is available on the school website.
- S4 Work Experience – S4s were tasked with finding and securing a work placement themselves for week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October. In the past (pre COVID) the school used to do it but employers are not as prevalent as before.
- Skills Academy – skills applied and adopted in a different context to normal subjects.

- pupil equity fund

- The PEF national guidance sets out information on how Community Choices can be used as an innovative and effective mechanism to engage with parents and pupils, in particular those who face barriers to participation. This is being run by Dawn Fleming and more info is available on the school website.
- Last year the Students agreed everyone should receive a reusable water bottle
- A new coffee machine has just been delivered for an Enterprise project. The school will be looking for senior pupils to sign up and train to be Baristas.
- Your Space Counselling service has been increased to 3 days a week.
  - Please see the school website on how to support and who can access any additional services required eg school uniform grants, free school meals.

## **6. Parent Workshops**

Could the Parent Council let Mrs Allison know if there is anything else the school can offer to parents/carers

## **7. Head Teacher's Update**

Mrs Allison confirmed letters had been sent out to parents/carers confirming the school will be inspected by HM Inspectors of Education w/c Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022. It has been 15 years since the school was last inspected. They will spend a week at the school looking at 4 areas (1) Leadership of change (2) Learning, Teaching and Assessment (3) Ensuring wellbeing and inclusion (4) Raising attainment and achievement. There will be observations done in classes, they will speak to students during class, lunchtimes and in focus groups.

Ms Kazeminia has begun a seconded post out with DCHS and is temporarily replaced by Ms Homer in the English department.

Home Economics post has been advertised again.

## **8. AOCB**

Patricia asked about the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme within DCHS. Mrs Allison confirmed the school no longer have the required trained staff to undertake this scheme. Mrs Allison will make contact with another school in the area (St Margarets Academy) who do have the required trained staff to see whether it is possible for DCHS to take part with them.

Eddie raised issues around the school app being unavailable. P Allison will look into this.

## **Next meeting**

**7pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. This will be an online meeting. Details to follow.**