

James Gillespie's High School

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

Note of meeting

This meeting was held using Microsoft Teams due to ongoing limitations on group meetings related to Covid-19. Questions from parents and carers were invited prior to the meeting and could also be added during the meeting using a moderated chat.

The following are notes of the presenter names, agenda and action points to accompany the video of the meeting held on Teams and available to view at:

<https://youtu.be/O0i8dZoNBGA>

Further responses to questions submitted during the meeting are also available at:

<https://jghspc.wordpress.com/documents/meeting-minutes/>

Presenters:

Donald Macdonald – DM (HT), Sarah Scott – SS (Chair), Deirdre O’Brien – DB (DHT), Bob Shankland – BS (DHT), Ashling Dolan (CL Maths)

Moderators:

Graeme Davis – GD, Cath Downie – CD, Ailsa Macintosh – AM

1. Welcome and note of last meeting (0:00:00 – 00:03:07)

SS welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting. Formal minutes were not recorded for the previous online meeting (23 February 2021) as a video record is available at <https://youtu.be/5iHJFINKUYY>.

Actions from the meeting of 23 February 2021 are ongoing.

2. Introduction – Sarah Scott (00:03:07 – 00:09:24)

SS reported that the Parent Council had launched a new website (<https://jghspc.wordpress.com/>) and thanked Parent Council members Graeme Davis, Hilary Snaith and Laura Bird for their work in setting up it up.

She updated the meeting on ongoing developments on capacity planning for 2021/22 following the special meeting on 2 February. Information on this subject, including correspondence with the school and Council is available at: <https://jghspc.wordpress.com/useful-files/>.

SS highlighted James Gillespie’s Trust’s small grants scheme for secondary pupils (www.jamesgillespiestrust.com), reported on the Parent Council’s own finances and encouraged parents to participate in the Parent Council’s fundraising through

EasyFundraising and via ParentPay. Further information on Parent Council fundraising is available at: <https://ighspc.wordpress.com/fundraising/>

3. Overview – Donald Macdonald (00:09:24 – 00:23:43)

DM thanked all parents, carers and students for their efforts in supporting online learning during the second lockdown, and noted that the school had had to adapt very quickly in a challenging environment from March 2020 in delivering learning remotely and practices had developed since then.

He outlined difficulties in making arrangements for SQA assessments because of the rapidly changing guidance from the SQA, Scottish Government and Council.

He welcomed students back to school on a part-time basis, although this was challenging for the school because 2-metre distancing in a modern school building with small classrooms was very difficult.

He also answered parents' questions on the part-time timetable, capacity planning, blended learning for self-isolating students, outdoor equipment at the school, primary-secondary transition for language learning and Covid-19 testing.

4. Online learning and teaching update – Deirdre O'Brien and Aisling Dolan (00:23:43 – 00:39:13)

AD and DB gave an overview of online learning arrangements in place since January and the results of a survey of pupils and parents on their experience of it.

The presentation can be viewed at: <https://ighspc.wordpress.com/category/parent-council/>

5. SQA arrangements – Bob Shankland (00:39:13 – 00:59:34)

BS gave a presentation on different options for carrying out SQA assessments under the SQA's regulations this year.

The presentation can be viewed at: <https://ighspc.wordpress.com/category/parent-council/>

6. Questions and answers (00:59:34 – 01:18:48)

DD and BS answered questions on SQA assessment arrangements, timetabling, capacity planning, NHS vaccinations and Covid-19 testing.

See also <https://ighspc.wordpress.com/documents/meeting-minutes/> for these and other questions.

7. Thanks (01:18:48 – 01:19:25)

SS thanked all the presenters and noted the importance for parents of being able to hear from school staff about developments in such a disrupted year.

8. Date of next Parent Council meeting

To be confirmed