

Deans Community High School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 29th September 2019

Attendees

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Stephen Small (DHT), Stacey McCallum, Mark Cockburn, Patricia Miller, Anne Chalal, Heather Marriot

Apologies

Caroline Bennett, Janice Ritchie, Ali Hatcher, Susan Begley, Anne Runciman.

Agenda:

1. Review of Previous Minutes
2. Transition Update – S. Small
3. Proposal regarding changes to current reporting system – P. Allison
4. Head Teacher's Update – P. Allison
5. AOCB

1. Review of Previous Minutes

There was a review of the minutes from previous meeting held on the 25/05/20 via a telephone consultation between the head teacher and chairperson in collaboration with Parent Council members. No issues were raised surrounding the previous minutes.

2. Transition Update – S.Small

Due to the impact of Coronavirus this year's transition took place digitally within Microsoft Teams across a period of 3.5 days rather than the usual 5. In the run up to transition week the HOH launched a house competition in which pupils were awarded points for completing tasks, the points awarded were based on the difficulty of the task. Transition week itself took place in June and during this time pupils had experience across all curricular areas and had a check in with their HOH at the end of the week. The response from HOH was positive, it allowed them time to meet and get to know their pupils. Feedback from parent council was also positive and that transition was a success and some pupils (and their families) enjoyed the variety of tasks and challenges set.

When asked if there was anything that would be done differently in future, SS replied that the house competition could be done via TEAMS while primary seven pupils are still in primary classes in conjunction with their primary teachers. There is also an aim to have a more curricular focus next year and the development of a new literacy project has been discussed with the languages faculty head. Members of the parent council asked SS if parents had had the opportunity to ask questions throughout the transition SS replied that a pupil survey was conducted but a parent survey was still to be carried out, however one piece of feedback that had been received from a parent was that the workload on the pupils during transition was too heavy due to work issued from both primary and secondary.

3. Proposal regarding changes to current reporting system – P. Allison

Feedback from parents and a quality assurance of S1 reports in June showed that the current reporting system was not always telling parents about their child's progress and the steps that should be taken to continue to progress, this led to a rethink of the current reporting system in school and a proposal of changes was made and shared with the parent council. The new proposal will see a move away from prose reports, moving to shorter reports with increased frequency. The introduction of new tracking spreadsheets to both Senior Phase and BGE allow additional functionality for SLT analysis and Students will use Tutor time to reflect on their progress and formulate an action plan for next steps. PA has set aside time on the October INSET to take staff through these new changes and report writing.

Feedback from the parent council was in favour of the changes to the current reporting system in the school. Members of the parent council suggested that reports can also include what unit/topic the pupils are currently working on as well as their working level.

4. Head Teachers Update

PA has been aiming to provide weekly updates, especially during the months of home learning to help reassure parents. PA asked the parent council if there were any concerns with the level of communication. The parent council were happy with the frequency and content of the updates, and suggested that if possible if the update could be sent to more than one email address due to split households and information not always been passed from one party to another. PA will peak to the admin team to see if this is a possibility.

PA then asked the parent council if there were any other queries/concerns. Members of the parent council wanted to know the number of pupils adhering to wearing a face covering in school. PA informed parents that all SMT station a school entrance each morning and ensure hands are sanitised on entering and face masks are issued, all staff remind pupils to wear a mask if they are able to do so. PA informed the parent council that despite such measures the wearing of face coverings in the school is not as high as it should be and a reminder to parents will be issued in the next newsletter. Another concern raised by the parent council was the lack of feedback given by some departments to pupils during the period of home learning – PA will speak to the department involved.

PA updated the members of the parent council on the current scenario surrounding parent's evenings. There is a possibility of a web based digital platform, the council is currently examining the security on this and if agreed this platform will be rolled out across all WL schools.

5. AOCB

- The parent council raised a concern over an Instagram account set up by S2 pupils. SS will investigate the matter and have Instagram remove the page in question.
- Another concern was raised surrounding school dress code, especially in regards to leggings and skirts – PA will update the newsletter with a reminder to parents of the school dresscode.
- Parent council meetings will now take place monthly due to the impact of coronavirus, meetings will last 1 hour.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 18:00 via Skype for Business.