

Deans Community High School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 27th October 2020

Attendees

Angela Ritchie (Chair), Pauline Allison (HT), Caroline Bleach (DHT), Stacey McCallum, Mark Cockburn, Patricia Miller, Heather Marriot, Sandra Fannon

Apologies

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

Agenda:

1. Review of Previous Minutes
2. Support Update – C. Bleach
3. Head Teacher's Update – P. Allison
4. AOCB

1. Review of Previous Minutes

There was a review of the minutes from previous meeting held on the 29/09/20 via Skype for business. No issues were raised surrounding the previous minutes.

2. Support Update – C. Bleach

Due to the impact of Coronavirus it was clear that measures had to be put in place to support pupil mental health following their return to school. The school currently has 15 staff members who are mental health first aid trained, with Sarah Duncan in Music being a trainer herself. During the October INSET all staff undertook SAMH training to increase staff confidence in assisting pupils with their mental health concerns.

All pupils across all schools in West Lothian are required to complete a health & wellbeing check in, where the pupils rate themselves 1-5 against a range of health & wellbeing indicators. Any pupil who have rated themselves 1-2 will have interventions put in place and regular Head of House check ins. The results from the September wellbeing check in showed that mental health is a concern. In response there have been nurture groups put together run by the heads of house and pupil support staff. These groups facilitate chat and a safe space to talk.

The integrated wellbeing service in the school are running health and wellbeing award with S3/4 pupils struggling with mental health. The team will also be training the heads of house so the award can be rolled out across more pupils.

Tutor time has moved to later in the morning, by seeing the same staff member every day, this staff member can be the port of call for many pupils and an extra avenue of support available.

A summary of support in place will be put in the parent newsletter update. There was a suggestion that the school could try an implement confidence building in pupils, this is incorporated in the PSE course.

3. HT Update – P. Allison

Staffing update – at time of writing limited number of staff having to isolate. One staff member isolating and working from home long term due to underlying health issues. The probationer in DMG has decided that teaching is not for her therefore DMG are down a teacher, staff reallocation has seen Bob Gray HOH teaching more DMG. Priority is given to classes sitting qualifications.

A catering lecturer from WL College will take some hospitality lessons, Paul Sinclair has fitted PPE in home economics so that practical can resume.

At time of writing still no indoor PE, outdoor non-contact PE only.

SQA update – N5 will have no external exam and instead there will be alternative certification. There have been some modifications to courses as a result and departments are taking these into account, the modification vary from subject to subject. The authority has subject network meetings where all staff members within the subject meet 3 sessions a year, there has been additional time planned for this. The school is working closely with the authority, to ensure all schools are using sufficient range of material, which are robust and meeting the required standards. Teachers are aware of the standard expected.

Higher will still have an external exam including some coursework. Exam diet has been pushed back 3 weeks.

No parents evening planned for before Christmas until new system is up and running. The system looks good and is awaiting feedback from staff.

4. AOCB

- Questions surrounding quality of the WiFi – WiFi should be good across the school, after an upgrade last year, students reporting of timing out during browsing.
- A suggestion of looking at how to incorporate study skills for S1/2.
- P7 open evening will be similar to transition. It will be held virtually with videos on the website.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 18:00 via Skype for Business.

January 2021 will be the AGM.