

Deans Community High School (Virtual Teams Meeting)

Parent Council Meeting Notes

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### **Attendees**

Pauline Allison (HT), Gillian Campbell, Eddie Carson (Acting Chair), Caroline Bennett, Miss Riddell, Mr Roberts, Louise Hoolighan, Ade Fakoya, Frances Mackay, Fabiyi Gbenga

### **Apologies**

Janice Ritchie, Angela Ritchie, Kirsty Clarke, Stuart Craigon, Patricia Miller

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Previous minutes
4. Items from chair
5. Parent workshops
6. HMle Inspection
7. Head Teacher's update
8. AOCB

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

As above.

#### **3. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by all attendees**

#### **4. Items from the chair**

Refresh of the parent's council: Eddie has reviewed the Connect website (a site which hosts information to support Parent Councils) and they are running a webinar on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November which focuses on how to reboot and refresh parent councils. Eddie will attend this to gather ideas on steps we can take and feedback in the November meeting, together with the My World triangle work that Angela had started previously. Gillian will also sign up to attend the webinar.

The Connect site also has guidance on the use of social media by parent councils. Eddie will review this and discuss options in November. In the meantime, Eddie will at setting up the parent council email address that was agreed in September's meeting. All agreed that we should provide some guidance to parents as to what the parent council does and the types of questions/issues they should contact the email address with, to avoid receiving concerns about

individual situations. Caroline had guidance for parents for Seafield primary parent's council and will try to look this out and share with Eddie.

## 5. Parents' Workshop

- The first Literacy & Numeracy Workshops were held this month. They were well attended and the variety of start times worked well, with the first and third sessions being the best attended. Feedback from those who attended was positive and so the school want to build on this with further sessions.
- The Wellbeing sessions are taking place this on Wednesday this week. These will consist of a general introduction, 1 hour of breakout sessions of 20 minutes each with a variety of external organisations, followed by an information Q&A session in the Street. Some of the organisations that are attending and will have stalls/run sessions are Sleep Scotland, NHS Lothian to discuss eating disorders, Stress Management, financial services, Xcite, and teacher-led sessions on Mindfulness and Yoga. The initial form that was sent to parents indicated a good level of interest and so we are hopeful for a good attendance. Those who attend will be asked for feedback and the plan is to use this to inform future sessions and possibly more specific sessions on topics which were of most interest to those who attend.
- Talked last time about sessions for other topics. Will look at study sessions before the S4 parent's evening. And then do before the S5/6 parent's evenings, and then see if this is something that could be built out into a bigger session.

## 6. HMIE Inspection

Eddie advised that he had a call with the inspectors, talking about the school's engagement with inspectors. Eddie covered the SMT engagement with the parent council and more generally, and praised the school's efforts during Covid and the attempts from the school to engage with parents.

11 HMIE inspectors arrived at the school on Monday lunchtime and left late Friday morning. During this time they observed 40 lessons; held 7 student focus groups; issued a survey to parents, staff, students and partners; held focus groups with various members of staff; 2 parents focus groups, and a number of 1 to 1 meetings with Mrs Allison and members of the School Leadership Team.

Whilst no specific feedback was provided to Mrs Allison she was given sight of the overall results of the survey sent to each group, the responses from which were really positive.

On Friday the inspectors provided ratings for the four areas that their inspection focused on:

- Leadership of change
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion
- Learning assessment
- Attainment

Mrs Allison confirmed that whilst she has been made aware of the ratings, she is not allowed to share this information with school staff or the parent council until the inspection report has gone through a thorough quality assurance process.

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

The inspection has been the main focus for the past few weeks.

There are interviews scheduled on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for the Home Economics post, with two candidates to interview. Other than this, staffing is stable at the moment with not too much movement.

Eddie asked if there are concerns about the potential industrial action. Mrs Allison advised that the main unions have put the decision to a ballot. It's not something that has had to be dealt with in recent years, however there's no indication of how union members will vote, so will need see how this unfolds.

## **8. AOCB**

Caroline asked if for future years could opportunities be made available for 5<sup>th</sup> year students who plan to go to college/university at the end of the year. As not all students will stay on until 6<sup>th</sup> year, it would be good to involve them activities/roles which will assist them in their college/university applications, for example skills development days, subject ambassador roles etc. Mrs Allison confirmed that she will raise this with the team to consider particularly for activities/roles which take place outside of the school hours. One of the reasons that 6<sup>th</sup> year students can be offered more of this type of opportunity is that they don't have a full time-table and so can use free periods to support whereas 5<sup>th</sup> year students will have full timetables

Caroline asked if the Friday night project is likely to restart. Mrs Allison confirmed that this would not be restarting as it was run by a few teachers and the campus police officer who is no longer with us.

### **Next meeting**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm, in the school.**