

Turnbull R.C. High Virtual Parent Council Meeting

19th October 2020

Chairperson
Stewart Collins

Head Teacher
Eileen Kennedy

Secretary to Parent Council

Angela Murray
Turnbull R.C. High
Bishopbriggs
G64 2EF
office@turnbull.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

In Attendance	
Mr. Stewart Collins	PC Chair
Mr. Martin McBride	PC Vice Chair
Mrs. Angela Murray	PC Secretary
Mrs. Laura McManus	PC Parent member
Mrs. Sharon Hill	PC Parent member
Katrina Parkes	Parent
Ronke Ayodele	Parent
Tracey Fox	Parent
Jennifer Butler	Parent
Paul Watson	Parent
Louise Young	Parent
Mrs. Eileen Kennedy	Head teacher
Apologies	
Councillor Low	
Mr. Andrew Vaughan	PC Church Representative

	Agenda Item
2.	<p><u>Introductions</u></p> <p>Mr Stewart Collins chaired the meeting and welcomed the virtual attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mrs Kennedy pointed out that Councillor Low was unable to attend due to software restrictions from his Council Offices.</p>
3.	<p><u>Approval of AGM minutes</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved.</p>
4.	<p><u>Actions arising from minutes</u></p> <p>Mr Collins alerted the Council that the email addresses for himself, Mrs Murray and Mr McBride were incorrect on the school website. Mrs Murray promised to send a note of the correct email addresses to Mrs Kennedy who can forward it on to the relevant party to correct the error.</p>

Mr Collins wrote a piece for the Turnbull Times informing the Parent Forum of the need for new members of the Parent Council.

Mrs Kennedy arranged for a Groupcall message was sent out to all parents and carers inviting them to attend the virtual meeting.

5. Health, Safety & Security

COVID – Mrs Kennedy informed the meeting that risk assessments are being updated regarding ventilation practices (i.e. open classroom windows) going in to Winter.

The school had one positive case, but this was not linked to in-school transmission, rather the individual had been infected during the October break.

Ms. Parkes asked, if a student tests positive, do the others in the class, and their parents, only find out from Trace & Protect. Mrs Kennedy replied that in this case the school would inform the Chief Education Officer and identify contacts. The CEO would get in touch with Public Health Scotland and the three parties would meet via telephone to agree the list of people needing to self-isolate and the dates of isolation.

Ms Parkes asked if parents should inform school if absence is due to COVID or should the school office ask if this is the case? Mrs Kennedy advised that there is an expectation that a reason for absence is provided by the parent. Mr. Watson added that he felt clarity was needed around children being sent home. He suggested perhaps the school could provide a “What next” sheet to accompany young people being sent home. Mrs Kennedy welcomed this idea and emphasised that if teaching staff have any concerns about a young person having COVID symptoms, they speak to that young person and the SLT privately.

Mr McBride said that he was concerned about the ventilation in classrooms. Mrs Kennedy replied that the guidance was sent from the Scottish Government to the Education Authority but as yet was not with the school. She said there will be a need to balance the school being warm enough and ensure adequate ventilation re COVID.

Mrs. Fox asked if there were any plans in place to bring P.E. indoors. Mrs Kennedy replied that there had been no change to current Government guidelines.

Mrs Kennedy informed the meeting that a bottle of acid had been removed from one of the Science lessons. Police have been informed but, as it is 0.1M HCL, they are not overly concerned.

Mr Watson raised concern over the safety of the young people at the end of the school day due to car congestion in the streets around the school. This is exacerbated by the public bus that sits at the bus-stop on St. Mary’s Road. Mr Watson said he had contacted the bus company. Mr Collins replied that, this is an issue around every school and that it is raised at every Parent Council meeting, but no solutions have been found as yet.

Ms. Parkes asked if there was a school policy regarding fireworks being brought into school. Mrs Kennedy replied that there is a clear ruling that fireworks should not be brought in to school. When this happens and the culprit is identified the school takes a strong line on this. However, young people can not be excluded as a result of such an incident. The school is proactive in these matters through PSE lessons developed / delivered by partners such as the Fire Service and through assemblies.

Mrs Murray asked about reports of young people from outwith the school gaining access to the school and setting off the fire alarm. Mrs Kennedy confirmed that this was true but the young people were in the school for only four minutes before teachers managed to shepherd them out of the building. Photos were circulated to all local schools but no-one recognised the young people. The Authority have been informed and are happy with the procedures in place to prevent a repeat of this incident. Another false alarm was

	<p>triggered within the school but the cameras did not pick up who did it. More cameras are to be bought for the school.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Head Teacher's Report</u></p> <p>The full report can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.turnbull.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/media/11949/parent-council-head-teacher-report-october-2020.pdf</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>SQA & Reporting</u></p> <p><u>SQA</u></p> <p>Mrs Kennedy asked if any more parents had any concerns regarding the exam results this year. She herself, had been contacted by seven parents who raised concern regarding appealing the teacher estimates rather than the SQA awards. However, Mrs Kennedy informed parents that there is no appeal process for this. Mr Collins reported that three parents had contacted the Parent Council regarding appeals. As the Parent Council is unable to help in these matters, Mr Collins suggested that they contact the Education Authority.</p> <p>Very recent developments have resulted in the National 5 exams being cancelled by the Scottish Government. Instead, the SQA will direct each course to provide 2-4 pieces of work/assessments which will be used to allow professional judgment to make the assertion that National 5 level has been achieved by an individual. Rigorous moderation will be employed, perhaps through Regional Improvement Groups and Education Authorities. Parent Council members welcomed the news that coursework will be moderated across different schools and areas. This will ensure that each school is awarding at the same level.</p> <p>Mr. McBride asked if the work to be checked is coursework or continual assessment. Mrs Kennedy replied that SQA had not yet provided enough information to ascertain this.</p> <p>Mrs Kennedy informed the meeting that, as the 4th Year students will not be sitting exams, the loss of teaching time could not be justified to allow prelims to be held in December. This will be reviewed once we have full information from SQA re. what the coursework will look like. Ms Butler informed Mrs Kennedy that she supported any decisions made by the school regarding prelims.</p> <p>The SQA exam diet for Highers and Advanced Highers will take place 10th May – 4th June 2021. The Scottish Government will be making regular assessments between now and the February break. Everything is under review in terms of COVID -plans are in place should these exams need to be cancelled.</p> <p>The SQA have altered the exams; they have included optional questions, reduced the content and cut assignments.</p> <p>Mr. McBride raised concerns that the February break would be too late to collect evidence. Mrs Kennedy agreed and stated that, at this point, she would like to keep the prelims.</p> <p>Mrs Kennedy asked parents if they thought study leave was necessary for their young people or could they continue with their timetable and just sit prelims on the days they have them. Parents suggested that it would be better to ask this of the young people themselves.</p> <p><u>Reporting</u></p> <p>Mrs Fox stated that parents of second year students (who are beginning to think about their subject choices), have had only one parents meeting in October last year and have no idea at what level their child is working. Mrs Kennedy agreed that this was unacceptable and said that she would discuss the possibility of bringing forward S2 reports with the professional associations as part of the working time agreement, perhaps swapping timing with that of 4th Years.</p>

	<p>A discussion followed about means of overcoming the lack of face-to-face parents evenings. Ms Parkes informed the meeting that she loved what the school was doing with Satchel One. Mr Collins asked if monthly reports would be possible. Mrs Kennedy said she would also discuss this suggestion with professional associations as part of the working time agreement but did not think that time would allow for this. Mr McBride stated that he has had three children at Turnbull R.C. High and has always found the comments and reports from teachers to be very accurate. Mrs Kennedy stated that if a parent receives a written report for their child and they still have concerns, then they can contact the Pastoral care teacher.</p>
8.	<p><u>Parish Report</u></p> <p>No update</p>
9.	<p><u>Parental Correspondence</u></p> <p>As previously mentioned regarding exam results.</p>
10.	<p><u>Chair's Update</u></p> <p>Mr Collins provided his email address for any of the parents attending the Parent Council meeting for the first time who wanted to join.</p> <p>No Parent Forum meetings planned as yet.</p>
11.	<p><u>A.O.C.B</u></p> <p>None</p>
12.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parent Council will be on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7pm.</p>