

MINUTES of Holy Rood RC High School Parent Council Meeting held on Monday 29 October 2018.

PRESENT: S Collins, E Wilson, Maureen Cockburn, Marina Cockburn, L Murray, AM O'Neill, C Davie, G Gordon, S McIntosh, S Radford, A McGreevy

APOLOGIES: S Dodds, D Foreman, K Quill, N Hancock, D Connarty

IN ATTENDANCE: L Legrix, J Falconer

## **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of 30 April 2018 were adopted as a true record.

Marina Cockburn proposed the Minutes and E Wilson seconded them.

## **3 Matters Arising**

- SAC bid was accepted (£94,455)
- Recruitment – after initial posts being filled very timely, we have encountered serious issues in recruiting
- Centenary Act – National Mass cancelled due to high winds

## **4 Correspondence**

- DYW event 4<sup>th</sup> September – was forwarded
- This year's YPI final will take place on Monday 10 December in the afternoon. As Simon couldn't attend this year Marina Cockburn volunteered to stand in for him.
- Grace and Favour bus passes will no longer be issued as smaller buses are being provided in order to save money. Simon agreed to write to the transport department giving our concerns and implications of this change.

## **5 iPads**

- Changes to use – iPads are now used as class sets rather than being given to individual pupils. Decision based on audit of use by SIG and class sets are more effective use of resources. Machines are ageing and unable to replace as school budget is tight. S Radford explained that is much more efficient and beneficial to both staff and pupils.
- Refresh: The Head explained the challenges of the recent refresh that the school is experiencing. (Portal for Windows 10, enhanced laptops, printers, etc). The HT has been in regular contact with CGI and CEC and most problems now resolved. The Head will not sign off until fully satisfied.

## 6 **S6 Leadership Roles**

E Wilson was concerned that the process of selecting Captains and prefects took too long.

The HT explained that there were reasons for the timing of these important roles.

- Very important for skills development and CVs/UCAS Personal Statements.
- Builds on opportunities from S1 upwards – including Pupil Council roles
- Opportunities include: School Captaincy Team, Pastoral and Faculty Prefects, Committees (e.g. Prom Committee, Charities Committee), Caritas, Outward Bound (Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award), Sports Ambassadors and extra-curricular activities etc. S Radford explained that prefects are selected for their roles once they have been in sixth year for a few weeks thus getting the best for both pupils and school. It also allows Year Heads and CLs get to know the new first year and helps to make the best appointments.

## 7 **Changes to National Qualifications**

- Main change is the removal of mandatory Unit Assessments from N5 (last year) and Highers (this year). These will be removed from AH from next year. The Head issued a timeline and parents' factsheet
- The content of the courses will not change
- Coursework and the final exam will be strengthened, i.e. some subjects will have exams that didn't have exams before and some exams have been increased in length.

## 8 **Attainment**

The Head took the parents through a paper showing the attainment for this year. It was agreed Mrs Daly will be asked to attend a future meeting to give more in depth information.

## 9 **RE Resources**

Request from the RE department for support to purchase texts. These are needed because of increase in number of non-specialist teachers. It was agreed to help RE with this request of £1200.

## 10 **Head Teacher's Report**

- Staffing: cannot recruit in RE, Maths, Music, Drama, Computing. Current vacancy in English and Sfl (PEF). Supply teachers are few and far between. Staff pulling out all the stops to ensure all classes are taught (Science able to teach Maths e.g.). SLT are supervising classes. Picture replicated across the city and the country. Recruitment and retention is an issue for the profession.

- Centenary of 1918 Education Act
  - Icon handed over at mass in Cathedral on 21<sup>st</sup> November – pupils and staff will represent Holy Rood
  - Icon hosted in Saint Augustine’s – pupils from Holy Rood will visit
  - Event in Parliament – Holy Rood pupils will provide some music
  - Event in Castle (John Swinney hosting) – 2 senior pupils will accompany me
  - Westminster event – I will represent Catholic Secondary Head Teachers (as CHAS Chair)
  - S6 Joint Mass – 3 secondary schools – very moving outside event and mass said by Father Jock. Reception and cake in library.
  
- **School Life:**  
Time did not allow for an update on school life – this will be covered at the next meeting

**11 AOCB**

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**12 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 3 December 2018.

Signed as a true record:

MINUTES of Holy Rood RC High School Parent Council Meeting held on Monday 3 December 2018.

PRESENT: E Wilson, Maureen Cockburn, Marina Cockburn, C Davie, G Gordon, S McIntosh, K Quill

APOLOGIES: S Dodds, D Foreman, N Hancock, D Connarty, S Radford AM O'Neill, A McGreevy, L Murray, S Collins

IN ATTENDANCE: L Legrix, J Falconer, M McHardy, S6 Captains

## **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of 29 October 2018 were adopted as a true record.

Marina Cockburn proposed the Minutes and S McIntosh seconded them.

## **3 Matters Arising**

- Refresh update – we are still experiencing some issues, but receiving support from CEC to address these
- Parent Council funding of RE resources – The RE staff pass on their appreciation for the contribution towards textbooks.
- Centenary of 1918 Act – The Head had reported about her trip to Westminster which was about the role of Catholic schools in contributing to Scottish society being recognized in a very positive way. Patrick Grady (MP) spoke and paid tribute to our schools – Archbishop Cushley responded. Mass was celebrated in Saint Mary Undercroft's by Archbishop Tartaglia. Deacon John and I will represent Holy Rood at Reflection and Reception in Saint Augustine's this Wednesday where the Icon is being hosted

## **4 Correspondence**

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## **5 Health and Wellbeing**

The Head Teacher introduced Miriam McHardy and explained that Miriam's services were initially funded by the orders of Sisters Christine and Jeanette. This is now being funded by PEF. Miriam's service is part of our wider Pupil Support Framework including Chaplaincy, Year Head pastoral support, general values driven ethos, HWB SIG and work of Susan Imlach (CL FTT and HWB) and our restorative approach to behaviour management. Miriam provides a service for pupils and staff in the form of individual personal support and more universal

support for whole cohorts of pupils. Holy Rood has been pro-active for some time in recognizing the need to support young people with mental health issues.

Miriam gave the Council an insight into some the work she carries out in Holy Rood. After a brief Q & A session Miriam practiced a short stress technique that she uses with pupils.

## 6 School Captains

The Head introduced the School Captain Team: Jack Rodgers (Captain), Neve Kellacher (Vice Captain) and Ruth Quill (Vice Captain). One of our main focusses when appointing is not based on gender but on the skills that our young people have to bring to the roles. We sometimes have only two in our Captaincy Team – but if we have three good candidates, we extend the team. There was very high calibre of candidate this year which made the decision really difficult. Unsuccessful candidates still play a key role on the various S6 Committees we have (Prom, Charity etc.).

The Captaincy Team then reported on how they found the selection process and gave some examples of how they represent the school, including the Centenary events at the Castle and Cathedral. This was followed by an Q & A session.

## 7 Head Teacher's Report

- **Staffing:** This continues to be an issue with vacancies in English, SfL, Maths Drama and Music. Securing supply staff is also becoming increasingly difficult.
- **School Life:**
- P6/7 Parents' Information Evening – An excellent turn out this year with over 250 parents in attendance.
- We hosted the **My World of Work Ambassadors Event**, with 140 pupils from schools across Edinburgh working collaboratively thinking about future career pathways.
- 4 pupils from Holy Rood have been successful in securing a place on Leith School of Art's Outreach Project (4 of 12 pupils accepted). They will be attending the art school on Friday afternoons, starting in September and finishing the course in March.
- All S1 pupils enjoyed the annual "**Speedy STEM**" event. *Activities led by industry professionals encouraged pupils to think about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.* Activities ranged from building and racing cars to making spaghetti towers.

- 36 S2 pupils attended an enriching week at **Outward Bound's Loch Eil Centre**. Pupils were challenged to try gorge walking, rock climbing and even jumping in the loch. Pupils further developed their leadership skills and confidence and returned talking enthusiastically about their experiences. The Head Teacher S6 pupil (Yekta) attended CEO lunch to help promote Outward Bound and gain sponsorship.
- All S1 pupils enjoyed a full day trip on the John Muir Way and at East Links Farm Park. Pupils completed the tasks to enable them to be presented in Social Subjects for the **John Muir Award**. Literacy and Health and Wellbeing in practice which was funded by PEF.

8 **AOCB**

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9 **Date of Next Meeting**  
Monday 11 March 2019

Signed as a true record: