

WHEC Parent Council
Thursday 19th September 2019 - 1.30-3pm, Conference Rm 1

Present –

Emily Bunt - Chair – EB

David Young – Head Teacher - DY

Ken Campbell – Treasurer – KC

Natalie Davidson- Member - ND

Amanda Campbell – Member – AC

Jo Black – Secretary - JB

1. **WHEC futures update** (next meeting 30th September, WHEC – 10am-12pm)
 - Overview from DY to recap
 - Nothing agreed happened over summer -DY contacted
 - Independent change manager to be appointed to speak to community. Shared budget with council. To start October- Dec through Touch Agency to make sure everything is in place for a formal name change in January 2020.
 - New badge competition open until October through Art Department
 - DY has met with Crawford and an architect to share thoughts on planning. Their vision was exciting. To make a presentation for stakeholders at WHEC Futures. Separate entrance with disabled access. Gym and cafeteria development. Refreshed cladding. Minimum year to get into place.
 - Serious discussion about astro-turf accessible through PE and shared with Edinburgh Leisure in evenings. Benefits whole community. One of the simplest parts to provide!
 - Changing village needed too with separate school entrance.
 - Plans are safe and secure compared to current set up. Positive take on the project.
 - Large budget being presented as possible. Importance of securing an attached timescale at the meeting. Willingness to take on short term disruption for long term gain.

2. **Head teachers Report**

(see PPT presentation)

-School Improvement Plan - contributions came from lots of stakeholders.

1) Attainment - Curriculum designed to get as many opportunities as possible for our pupils. Need to increase capacity for TAG (Targeted attainment group 20-30% of year group) to support young people as best as possible and get them back, softly, into school as trust is built. Desire to make sure everyone is leaving with something - bringing change to our community. A room provided for these young people so they have a safe space to interact with staff.

2) Teaching and Learning – bringing in creative technologies to every aspect of the curriculum.

3) Inclusions - improving links with those most at risk and helping them to be at school. Rights Respecting School (silver) being developed. Mark Levy coming from USA to talk about Civil Rights.

4) Career Education – identifying pathways and skills to help pupils employability

- Literacy and Numeracy all showing improvement at 3rd and 4th Level for third years over the last two years. In the 4th years achieving both N4/5 Literacy and Numeracy (so therefore greater access to choices after school) we are doing well in improvement and against the VC (virtual comparator) school. Huge increase in our S4 benchmarks – almost all getting entry level qualifications, a good nudge forward in N4s. Only 3 children got 5 N5s, but 8 got 4 N5s and 14 got 3 N5s so statistic doesn't show full picture. This is a hard area but was impacted by staff absences and personal stresses but a key priority for improvement.

-Improved Pupil Support Services/Nuture have all been pulled together to one floor (SFL, Guidance, Place2Be, Careers, Nuture) and it is helping everyone.

-Improved Health and Wellbeing if measured by exclusions we see a great improvement over the last 5 years. These figures really have impact on families in the community if we can improve them and they develop relationships and trust with the school.

-Communication strategy – Twitter/Facebook/Secondary School App/screens in building – keen to get the news of all the good things going on shared and live round the community e.g. Diana Award, Outward Bound 19 days for 6th Year, Sports Ambassador awards. Next week S2s heading into Edinburgh, 1st years were at Book Festival.

-Career Education – 8 pupils in Foundation apprenticeships, Heriot Watt hubs being made to develop STEM opportunities and Languages, Employability period per week for all S3s, Career Ready for S5-S6s with summer opportunities

-Interventions – Place2Be, TAG, HomeLink/Youth Engagement Worker (linking families and learning – a teacher with time to work alongside families), Teacher of Creative technologies (potential link with Apple?), Maximise (cluster project – YW and 3rd Sector – income maximisation for families – specialist provision split into 8ths with 75% focusing on primaries to maximise parental engagement)

-KC feels plan is building on kids confidence to help them know they can achieve. DY agreed and shared need for pupils to have ABCs (accepted, belong, control) to thrive.

-School last inspected in 2011 (others haven't been inspected in a longer period). Potentially 1-2yrs till next one? Inspectors need to see shared understanding of school from staff/pupils/parents. DY keen that Parent Council feel they have ownership and say in school. Genuine issues need to be fed back to DY so they can be dealt with as well as possible for the sake of the whole school. DY passionate that none of the pupils are short changed.

3. **Chairs Report** – EB has been briefed as new chair by AC. Locality Meeting in October. EB can't be at Futures group so keen there will be representation. Need to have WHEC's voice heard at meeting so that time line is put into place. Futures group need

clear dates and named people to move things forward. Want to see Council taking responsibility for promises made.

JB asked for clarity about Gov funding for new schools announcement. DY shared that it shouldn't change anything – we have an aspirational council but WH is not a pressure point for them just now in terms of school places or home building.

4. **Treasurers Report** – Awaiting quarterly bank statement. Last year's allocated budget all spent.
5. **Parents evening** – serving teas and coffees to meet parents and get feedback. Dates will be sent out to Parent council. Priority 30th September 4.30-6pm to meet the S1 parents. AC will def be there, EB will get there when she can.

Future dates – Tuesday 12th November, 1.30pm