

#	Item		Action
		<p>Culloden Academy Parent Council Meeting - virtual 29th March 2021, 7pm</p>	
1	Welcome	<p>Present: Duncan McDonald - Chair Jeni Alexander - Deputy Chair Lisa Thomson - Treasurer Ally Hill - Secretary Dr James Vance - CA Head Teacher Mr Weafer - CA Deputy Head Trish Robertson - Councillor Evelyn Gray, Neil Hillyard, Kirsten Petrie, Karen Povey, Pip Sharp, Lesley Henderson, Lisa Sturgess</p>	
	Apologies	<p>Catherine Bunn - Committee Member Suzanne Wilson</p>	
2	Previous Minutes	<p>Previous meeting minutes for 30.11.2020 were presented: Approved by Jeni Alexander and Seconded by Lisa Thomson</p>	
3	Headteachers Report	<p>You've seen the letters, survived the video assemblies and accessed the website so there really is not much more to tell. A brief review of the term would be that on Monday 4th January we were told that we would not be physically returning to school on Wednesday 6th due to the rapid deterioration in the public health situation over Christmas and asked to create a different lockdown learning experience to start on 11th January. In early February we were asked to create a different model to allow pupils studying practical activities back into the building in a safe a socially distanced fashion. We believed this would last for 6 weeks. 1.5 weeks into it, we were asked to design another model to bring all pupils back to school to serve a variety of priorities but again with cognisance taken of social distancing. We did this in the knowledge that the pupils undertaking practical activities would lose time and opportunity so to protect them gave them both Fridays and the third week. We will reach the holidays on Thursday with our young people having had a meaningful reconnection with the school, with them being more confident about returning and with our Senior Phase pupils in a meaningful position to succeed.</p>	

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		<p>Looking at next term, provided that current measures continue to suppress the virus we will have all pupils back on Monday 19th April. We have a huge task in front of us but we will be ready for it. One aspect of it is the whole concept of ‘build back better’ and pupil wellbeing. Next term will involve a lot of listening.</p>	
		<p>The other major aspect of next term is is the Senior Phase Alternative Certification Model or to put it another way the fact that we are in effect the exam board next term. This is a fairly significant additional task on top of what we usually do. I am confident that the work we have done this term and the work that we will do next term will provide our young people with a fair, appropriate and compassionate system within which to demonstrate their ability. At this point I’ve asked Mr Weafer to speak to you. Mr Weafer joined us in November as one of my Deputes and has the great good fortune to have SQA on his remit. He’s going to give a quick overview of what we have done and how the system will function to support our young people. After Mr Weafer you can consider this report concluded and we will be happy to take questions or feedback on any aspect of the report.</p>	
3	Mr Weafer Deputy Head	<p>Following on from JV letter to parents regarding CA plans for the Alternative Certification model, here are some further details:</p> <p>National 1-4 & SfW, NPA Courses - these are completely coursework based, pupils will continue working as normal, deadline for course completion has been extended until June. Content has been removed from certain courses to reflect current circumstances.</p> <p>National 5 - Advanced Higher A timeline presented of 4 weeks consolidation of learning phase, 2 wk A’s & 2 week B’s working with teacher, practice assessments. Followed by 4 weeks period of assessments - all assessments carried out during timetabled blocks, no new material will be taught, class time used for revision.</p> <p>CA’s model: Carry on with continuous assessment approach. No bit sit down “one off exam events” - pupils have to be at the centre of our plans. No assessment of anything that has not been covered. Teachers have split assessment into more manageable chunks for pupils, to give a chance to draw breadth and its not all in one day. Consultation period was sacrosanct - when Dr Vance spoke to senior pupils in S5 & S6 they were very appreciative of being given time to ease back into their studies.</p>	

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	<p>Mr Weafer Deputy Head Contd.</p>	<p>Assessments: Instruments of assessment have been moderated to ensure they meet the required standard. Teachers have done courses on moderation to ensure they are using the acceptable value of questions. Cross marking within department and with other schools - our marking need to be at a national standard. Blind marking - using SQA number rather than name to prevent any unconscious bias. SQA will be involved in the quality assurance process in May - every school in Scotland will be sampled.</p> <p>Reports, Results & Appeals: Senior Phase Reports are being posted out this week. They will tell pupils if they are on target or not in each of their subjects and what they can do to improve/consolidate their performance - all about giving our kids a sense of trajectory. Results will be shared with pupils & parents before the summer - we don't know what this will look like yet. There will be no 'SQA algorithm' this session SQA are in the middle of a consultation around what the appeal process might look like - more information to come.</p> <p>Open to questions for meeting attendees:</p>	
		<p>Jeni Alexander: what challenges do you see with this? And what benefits do you see outside the stress level from students? How are you going to support teachers?</p> <p>Mr Weafer - one of the biggest challenges is pupils who require additional support, we are ensuring support is available and staff feel confident this is achievable. Our other biggest challenge is any positive covid test and the period of self isolation of anyone - our job to reassure, be reactive and make alternative arrangements if an assessment is missed by individuals. Benefits for the kids: this has been an extremely unique year and this model will give kids the opportunity to plan for their assessments, and its not all on one day. Staff are heavily involved with building this model with JV and I, we now have 2 extra inservice days they can use for moderation and quality assurance. Their work load will increase enormously but they are fully on board, happy and willing to do it.</p>	
		<p>Duncan McDonald thanked Mr Weafer for all his work - with having 3 children in senior school, all seem happy about the planning of the months ahead.</p>	

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4	Treasurers Report	<p>Lisa Thomson: The bank balance as at last meeting on 30.11.20 = 333.84 pounds HC Funding Allocation deposited 26.3.21 for 792.39 pounds. No other transactions The Bank Balance as at 29.03.21 = 1126.23 pounds</p>	
5	Chair's Report	<p>Duncan McDonald:</p> <p>Lisa son finishes school this year so she will be stepping down as treasurer, so as a group we will need to look for a new treasurer.</p> <p>Thanks to parents for the feedback which we have received as a parent council on the issues which students and families have faced during the pandemic this past year. It has been passed on to the JV and we appreciate such positive comments and experiences during such a difficult time in the world.</p> <p>Thanks to JV and his staff for handling the issues so well.</p>	
6	AOCB - Stakeholder Group update - Culloden Academy Extension	<p>Jeni Alexander - so far we have had 2 meetings of the Stakeholder Group. CAPC participants are Ally Hill, Graham Hopper & myself. HC confirmed the advanced works - demolition of the Janitors houses, the refurbishment of toilets and additional toilets. Modular classrooms are now reserved and layout is being finalized and will be installed for start of new school year August 2021. HC presented a master plan for what the feel CA will look like in the future, design of the building, access to the building etc - a lot of consultation going forward has to be done. Our biggest concern is that we feel there is not enough money in the budget to do what has been proposed by the HC.</p> <p>Open to comments from other Stakeholder attendees and councilors.</p>	
		<p>Ally Hill - after our first open parent meeting and presentation on 8th February 2021, which most of you attended - I felt very disappointed and disheartened, frustrated that nothing had been done. At the first stakeholder meeting they provided information on the plan ahead and it felt very positive and its reassuring that work is progressing at a good pace at each of the meetings.</p>	
		<p>James Vance - the HC are working hard to get the project up and running now.</p>	

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6	AOCB - Stakeholder Group update - Culloden Academy Extension	Trish Robertson - still aiming to have the extension finished by August 2023. Robert Campbell helpful and supplying good information now. Going to be asking for the money in the next budget round to complete more of the project which I am pushing for. The new school is what they are terming as the end result, which is not what we are working on now - we are working on at the moment, is the 'first phase of the extension'. Which will give relief to the problems of overcrowding at the moment. I have requested for the toilets to come out of a separate budget as it would give us another million pounds to spend but no confirmation has been received to date.	
		Kirsten Petrie - can information and presentations please be share on the Facebook page to ensure all parents are aware of what is going on. JA & AH - yes	
6.1	AOCB Feedback to JV	Dr Vance asked parents for feedback on experiences during the pandemic this past school year.	
		Jeni Alexander - originally I felt that the children going back to school for 1 day per week prior to spring break was a waste of time but seeing my daughters so excited to return to school was wonderful and changed my view completely. Thanks to the school and JV for this.	
		Kirsten Petrie - with 2 children at CA and they got on with it really well, much more organised than previous online learning, really impressed and grateful. The teachers were reassuring to children that they were not behind with work and in speaking to them individually. Looking forward to hopefully returning after Easter - Thank you.	
		Ally Hill - really liked that the daily school block schedule was followed the same when online learning, worked well for her three children particularly keeping her son on track . Disapproved of the kids returning 1 day per week prior to spring break when seen the excitement of them getting ready with school bags and uniform it was truly wonderful. Great job to all CA staff for all the planning, effort and hard work it took those weeks.	
		Jeni Alexander - appreciated the Google Classroom updates from the teachers on her daughters - found it really helpful.	

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6.1	AOCB Feedback to JV Contd.	<p>Lisa Sturgess - for Google classroom, wondered if it was possible for the lesson to be sent to parents prior to the upcoming week? Overall a really positive experience for her children being back into school for the 2 days prior to spring break. However some teachers work overlapped when in school and child was concerned about not completing work prior going into school.</p> <p>JV - for google classroom it is a system setup, we hesitated in putting information out at the start of the week as it would break the system of children following the timetable. So we made the decision for the summary to be issued daily or at the end of the week. Thanks for other feedback and will think about how to fix that should be ever need to do this again, but helpful to know this and please tell your child not to worry.</p>	
		Lesley Henderson - echo what Lisa had said prior. A resistant teenager so the google classroom information would have been more helpful for her the week prior.	
6.2	AOCB	Jeni Alexander - attended a virtual meeting with Highland Parent Council Partnership with John Swinney. One of the items discussed was the issues and discrepancies around staffing levels across the Highlands, so it's been brought to his attention and the HC attention on behalf of CAPC and the HPCP.	
6.3		<p>Ally Hill - asked if CAPC did anything for teacher appreciation to thank all the teachers and staff for all their hard work this past year?</p> <p>DMcD - Historically nothing has been provided for the teachers but it's a great idea.</p> <p>AH - Proposed offering a sweet treat, boxes of wrapped chocolates to be distributed around teacher and staff area as a thank you for all their hard work during this extremely difficult year. To liaise with DM, JA & JV.</p>	AH
		Date of next meeting - June - date to be confirmed	