The Parent Council of Denny High School

Meeting Date: **Tuesday 10th May 2022, 7.00pm** (Virtual Meeting - Webex)

Parent Council Minutes

In Attendance: J Paterson (Chair), J Chalmers, L Garty, M Hancock, K McNiven, Y O'Rourke, L Scobbie, M Smith, Peter & Gillia Paton, P Dunn (HT), J Vaughn-Sharp (DHT)

1. Welcome and Introductions
   Joanne welcome everyone to the meeting and explained that as we were using the Webex platform we only have 50 minutes and meeting ends promptly at the point. There was a discussion held regarding format for future meetings.

2. Scottish Government Covid-19 Regulations Update
   Paul Dunn gave an update on current Scottish Government guidelines in school since latest update on 1st May 2022. The wearing of face coverings by staff and pupil is now recommended but not mandatory. Paul reported that only a small number of pupils continue to wear a face mask although they are still offered to pupils every morning as they enter the building and in the dining hall at lunchtime. Lateral flow testing in schools has been discontinued and school has run down all supplies of test kits. Ventilation of rooms continues to be monitored and there is still the necessity for staff to ensure that windows are opened for periods of time throughout each lesson. There was praise from parents for the school handling of Covid regulations on the chat feed. One parent highlighted that there is some confusion regarding the rules over wearing an outside jacket in class if the room is cold. Paul to clarify rules with all staff.

3. School Day Trial Update
   Paul Dunn provided update on current trial of school day with lunchtime 5 minutes shorter and the school day ending 5 minutes earlier than previously. This was essentially to give pupils a bit more time to make their way to school buses at the end of the day. Paul also said he hoped that it would encourage more pupils to remain in school over lunchtime. There has been very little feedback from pupils regarding the change other than some noting that they had more time to get the buses and they didn't leave so promptly. There was an issue in first few days of one bus leaving earlier but that has been resolved. Paul highlighted that one issue might be getting all pupils served in the dining hall when the senior pupils retrun from exam leave. It was asked if there are plans to consult with pupils before progressing and Paul confirmed that there would a pupil survey in June.

4. I-pads – Connected Falkirk Update
   Jamie Vaughn-Sharp shared next steps of Connected Falkirk IPad rollout in using returned S6 pupils IPad and new stock to provide IPad for incoming S1. The Connected Falkirk IPad issue to new S1 will not be until September 2022. Jamie also updated on plans to issue charges for damage or replacement of lost cables and chargers. It was felt that this might be difficult to enforce but parents accepted the necessity of taking this step.

5. Staffing Update
   Paul Dunn provided update on current staff recruitment in English, History, Head of House, Support for Learning and ASC. Paul also said that the school has currently secured all requested Probationer staff for next session, however, this could change depending upon current students accepting their placement offers.

6. Pupil Awards Update
   Code Red Team shortlisted for the national finals of the 'Scottish Education Awards 2020'. The finals are to be held in the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow in June and staff and pupils will attend the ceremony. Computing Department winning the 'Hooper Award' for work undertaken in closing the gender gap in Computing Science.

7. Dates of future meetings:
   Chair and HT to meet to discuss AGM meeting and plan meeting dates for next session. It was proposed that the Parent Council return to in-person meetings next session but consider using a virtual format during the winter months.

8. AOCB:
   School Toilets – Parent raised that there are some issues with staff not always allowing pupils to go to toilets. This was discussed and Paul outlined email instruction to staff. Paul said that whilst he totally agreed that pupils need to go to the toilet during class time there had been an issue with numbers of pupils asking out throughout the school day and in particular immediately after morning interval and lunchtime.

   Therapet Update – carried forward to next meeting.

   Cllr Blackwood has retired from service following recent local elections. Cllr Blackwood regularly attended Parent Council and was a source of ongoing support to the school. Paul and Joanne to liaise to discuss a gift from the Parent Council as a mark of appreciation.