

Trust Student Council meeting notes – 25th January at 4.30 p.m. via Teams

Executive Summary

Actions

- Reps to convene a School Council meeting to discuss 26th March meeting.
- Send themes and questions to Mrs Yelland for 26th March meeting by 15th March.
- Reps to discuss central bidding process with their Student Leadership Co-ordinator and school councillors and submit bid to Mrs Yelland by 18th March.
- Mrs Yelland to circulate bidding form.
- Reps to discuss Student Leader Awards with their Student Leadership Co-ordinator.

Key Decisions

- Run an annual student survey across the Trust.
- Retain worry monsters in primary schools and current systems for reporting in secondaries.
- Hold 26th March meeting on Teams during the school day (10.00 a.m. for an hour).

Present:

Mr Buckley, CEO

Mrs Pipe Headteacher at Dobwalls

Mr Evans, Head of Sixth Form at Saltash

Student Councillors present:

Megan (Landulph), Fleur (Saltash), Erin (Saltash), Faith (Liskeard), Harry (Liskeard), Luna (Trewidland), Eden (Trewidland), Arthur (Dobwalls), Harriet (Landulph), Malachi (Liskeard), Lucca (Dobwalls), Ruby (Landulph) and Yasmin (Dobwalls).

Apologies:

Mrs Yelland, PA to the CEO

Mr Lovell, Headteacher at Trewidland

Mrs Spence, Curriculum Lead at Landulph

Mr Saberton, Teacher and Head of Year at Looe

Mr Downes, Teacher and Head of Year at Liskeard

Neythen from Trewidland

Councillors from Looe

Bertie from Liskeard

Meeting started at 16.31.

Outline of meeting

Mr Buckley welcomed everybody to the third MAT Student Council meeting. Mr Buckley explained that Harry and Malachi will be chairing the meeting.

Rules of these meetings

Mr Buckley stated the rules as follows:

- Cameras can be on, but please ensure your background is blurred, or that there is no one else in the camera view.
- If you wish to speak, click on the 'raise hand' icon and wait for the Chair of the meeting to invite you to speak.
- Always keep your microphone on mute unless the Chair of the meeting invites you to speak.

- When you have been invited to speak, unmute your microphone and if you wish to (we would advise you to if you can) turn your camera on. When you have finished speaking turn your microphone off again.
- If you don't have a microphone that works, or you are uncomfortable with speaking, you can type your answers into the 'Chat'. If you don't have chat either you can send an email to Rachel.Yelland@smart-trust.net or your co-ordinator.

Public meetings

Mr Buckley advised that because these are public meetings, they focus on the positive items. It doesn't mean that we do not want to hear of any issues you may be experiencing, please do share them with your Student Leadership co-ordinator or another teacher in school.

Notes from previous meetings

Mr Buckley advised that the notes from the last meeting are on the website and asked the councillors to review them and if there are any amendments, please send these to Mrs Yelland.

Part 1 – The pupil survey

Two years ago – we did a totally anonymous survey of over 3000 of our pupils and found out information that was so important we want to do a survey every year from now on. The survey will have about 10 multiple choice questions. We will try to keep most questions the same each year so we can see how things are changing.

We would like to know your suggestions for what these questions should be.

1. Last time we found out that **13%** of pupils **did not want to be labelled** as a **boy** or a **girl**. This was much higher than we expected and so is one of the questions we would like to ask again.
How should we word it? Most schools have been trying to use these labels less now.
Should we ask a question about how well we are doing?

Mr Buckley asked if it is a good idea to repeat this survey annually? Mr Buckley asked for the students to vote using the 'hands up' function.

Majority agreed.

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Eden	Trewidland	Suggested that the question in the survey could be: "What gender do you want to be associated with?"
Megan	Landulph	Suggested it could be "What do you feel comfortable being called?"

2. Last time we found that the **most common issue** for pupils was the **toilets**, so we are **investing over £500,000** over the next few years to move to **separate unisex toilets** with their own sink, walls and door.
Should we ask questions to check if this is working?

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Arthur	Dobwalls	Believes it is working – better for privacy.
Eden	Trewidland	Should be checking they are working in case there is something that isn't appropriate.
Lucca	Dobwalls	Generally, thinks they are working and there aren't many complaints in school. For example, if the taps aren't working or if students feel disturbed.
Fleur	Saltash	Some people in her tutor agreed as it may help to improve if there is anything wrong.

3. Last time you **told us** that there were **things** that made your **day** feel a little **less safe**, but they were **too small to tell a teacher** such as **occasional name calling** and **sexism**. We designed an **anonymous reporting tool** on the **website** for you to **report them to us** and **worry boxes** in every **primary** classroom. **Fewer primary pupils** are **now worried**, so the **worry boxes** appear to be **working** but the **anonymous website** is **rarely used**.
Should we look for another way of dealing with these?

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Arthur	Dobwalls	Working in our school and is well used. Students would like to keep using it.
Faith	Liskeard	Students believe it is working, there is a box outside where lunch is eaten, and students are using it. Therefore, this should be kept.
Ruby	Landulph	Good idea so that worries can be shared anonymously.
Yasmin	Dobwalls	Worry boxes used quite a lot, believes it is very useful.
Mr Buckley asked if there are any secondary students who feel it is/isn't working?		
Erin	Saltash	It is working and agreed with Ruby re: anon reporting, though also felt it can be a barrier being anonymous as no one can support you.
Faith	Liskeard	Believed that being able to write it down rather than speaking to a teacher is a good idea as some students may find it difficult to articulate what they want to say.

4. Generally – what **other questions** should we **include** and **why**?

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Erin	Saltash	What can we change about school to make it more enjoyable? Some tutees felt it would improve attendance if they found the day more interesting or less tiring.
Lucca	Dobwalls	Do you feel safe and do you trust the teachers?
Luna	Trewidland	Do you enjoy school and what can we put in place to make you more comfortable? This will help students feel less worried and able to focus on work.
Arthur	Dobwalls	Get more students to be more active – games and after school activities.
Fleur	Saltash	Good idea to ask if anything could be improved so they feel safer in the environment they are in.
Lucca	Dobwalls	Would like some different clubs to be available. For example, climbing, construction.
Yasmin	Dobwalls	Agreed with Arthur and Lucca.
Erin	Saltash	Reported that the school has two breaks and that by the time you get your food there is little time left to eat which leads students to eat on their way into lessons and students are told off for this. Suggested increasing the length of a break to allow more time to queue and eat.

Part 2 – Sport

Sports in the Trust are one of our strongest subjects. How can we push to make them outstanding everywhere?

5. Are **all sports** currently **available to all pupils** at the moment in **your school**, or are there **barriers remaining** we should be **working together to lower**?

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Erin	Saltash	Some girls want to play rugby, but they are unsure why they can't.
Fleur	Saltash	More summer sports such as volleyball, basketball. Suggested the students decide what is on offer so they are more popular. <i>In PE lessons more summer sports (comment revisited as think she said it wrong but would still agree with above).</i>
Luna	Trewidland	More variety of sports and competitions.
Yasmin	Dobwalls	Less footballs out at lunch as they take up most of the space.
Lucca	Dobwalls	Most barriers to playing together have been removed – everyone plays the same sport (everyone can play together).
Arthur	Dobwalls	Agreed with Lucca, no barrier – everyone can play what they like. The school needs a larger space to play sports as many students play ball games and it fills up breaktime space.
Faith	Liskeard	Some of the girls are too afraid to go to after school clubs as they are concerned they will be the only girl there.
Ruby	Landulph	Last year there was an issue, more boys were selected for the football team and believed it is not just about winning but should be open to all no matter of ability.
Yasmin	Dobwalls	Agreed with Faith, some said they are worried to join as think they'll be the only boy or girls.
Arthur	Dobwalls	Advised they have a separate boys and girls football teams so everyone is included.
Megan	Landulph	Suggested it could be because of the rules. Netball team – not allowed to have more than two boys playing at a time or a full team of girls. Megan doesn't think this is fair.

6. Are there any **sports in school** where we have **separate teams** e.g., for ability, for gender, for age, for height etc. and **are these all working well**, or can **improvements be proposed**?

Name	School	Feedback/suggestion
Arthur	Dobwalls	Infants are separated from juniors but think it's fair as juniors are bigger.
Yasmin	Dobwalls	Agreed with Arthur. Though stated KS1 reported they don't think it's fair they can't do after school clubs. Suggested they should have more clubs.
Eden	Trewidland	KS1 and KS2 are separate for PE but thinks this is a good idea as we are bigger.
Faith	Liskeard	Wasn't sure if the school still does it but the students were surveyed on how much they enjoyed sports and were grouped on the results.

Mr Buckley thanked Harry and Malachi for chairing this section of the meeting. Mr Buckley congratulated Harry on how he summarised and checked the answers with the councillors.

Mr Buckley also wanted to recognise Yasmin, Arthur and Faith for referring to other answers given by the councillors.

Mr Buckley thanked all councillors for their inspiring answers and good suggestions.

Central bidding process

There is £200 available to the Student Councils to improve student services in some form. Mr Buckley noted that some schools within the Trust have a similar system in place within their own school, but this fund is available from the Trust.

The form will be circulated by Mrs Yelland.

Harry asked if the bid is decided amongst the Student Councils or tutees as well?

Mr Buckley answered if the councillors can ask other students, that would be great but whatever number you are able to manage.

26th March meeting

Mr Buckley advised that we are going to try an online meeting during the school day. Six schools will be linked, meeting on teams in groups rather than joining individually.

Each school's Student Leadership Co-ordinator will book a room for the councillors to meet in their respective school. It will be an hour long meeting starting at 10.00 a.m.

Harry asked if it will be just the Trust Student Council reps or the whole Student Council attending?

Mr Buckley asked the group for their opinions.

Megan agreed it was a good idea to hold the meeting during the school day so that more can attend. Faith agreed it was a good idea to get all reps in one place together rather than thinking on your own.

Mr Buckley suggested the councillors discuss with their fellow councillors in school.

Mr Buckley asked the councillors to consider what would be discussed in the meeting and who to involve. For example, bringing in guests such as school's sports leaders.

Mr Buckley confirmed that the number of attendees from each school would be governed on the size of the meeting space booked by the Student Leadership Co-ordinator (likely to be a classroom or meeting room).

Student Leader Awards – 3rd July 2024

Mr Buckley advised that following the success of last year's awards, they will run again following the same process. Each school will decide their own timeline for the nominations etc. Nominations can start from now as the forms have been released. Please speak to your Student Leadership Co-ordinator to discuss how to launch in the school. There will be 4 or 5 finalists per school.

Student Conferences

The May conference will be hosted by Saltash and designed by the Saltash Student Councillors.

Volunteers to chair the next meeting

Mr Buckley asked that if anyone wants to chair, please let your Student Leadership Co-ordinator know.

AOB

None raised.

Mr Buckley reiterated that we need ideas and questions for the March meeting sent to Mrs Yelland as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 17.00.