

Minute

Subject: Site Recovery Group Meeting

Venue: Library, St Ambrose Campus, Coatbridge

Date: Tuesday 10th December 2019

Attendees: Terry Currie DL (Chair)
 Michael McGinley, Head teacher, Buchanan High School
 Ellen Douglas, Head teacher, St Ambrose High School
 Kate Robb, Parent council, St Ambrose HS
 Mark McQuade, Parent council, St Ambrose HS
 Katrina McGhie, Parent council, Buchanan HS
 Frances Mullen, Buchanan HS
 Andrea Ford, Parent, St Ambrose HS
 Angela Boyd, SSTA
 Louise Brown, NASUWT
 Sharon Harvey, UNISON
 Bernard Bell, NASUWT
 Josh Petrie, Pupil, Buchanan HS
 Demi Kelly, Pupil, Buchanan HS
 Father Michael Kane, Chaplain, St Ambrose HS
 Paul Breslin, Parent, St Ambrose HS
 Niamh Carroll, Pupil, St Ambrose HS
 Hannah Cunningham, Pupil, St Ambrose HS

Also present: Matt Costello, North Lanarkshire Council
 Chris Sullivan, North Lanarkshire Council
 Andrew McPherson, North Lanarkshire Council
 Gerard McLaughlin, North Lanarkshire Council

Apologies: Dr Christine Davidson (Independent scientific advisor)
 Stephen Penman, North Lanarkshire Council

Scribe: Matt Costello, North Lanarkshire Council

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Colleagues were welcomed to the group and apologies were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Minute of last Meeting</p> <p>Clarification was sought by S Harvey regarding information distributed following SRG meetings. Copies of the unverified minutes had been sent to those on the distribution list which had been passed to the minute secretary. However, someone on the list was not a member of the SRG. The unverified minutes were then issued to members of a trade union. This led to criticism of a member of the group for causing a delay in the issue of minutes.</p> <p>The Chair made it clear that this criticism was totally unjustified. To eliminate such problems in future, the Chair insisted that only members of the group and relevant North Lanarkshire Council officials (for technical accuracy) should directly receive copies of the minutes.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Air quality monitoring:</p> <p>Andrew McPherson provided detail on the compounds tested for to date and advised that there would be four areas for further passive sampling, with discussion taking place about those areas. Both head teachers and Gerard McLaughlin confirmed that there had been</p>	

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	<p>no increase in pupil illness.</p> <p>Bernard Bell confirmed that a previously reported foul smell from drainage in Buchanan HS had now abated.</p>	
4.	<p>Water Quality</p> <p>Chris Sullivan advised that water quality monitoring continued on a four-weekly basis with no issues to report.</p> <p>He also advised that work to comply with the Chemtech recommendations would be completed within six months and not two years as recommended in the report.</p>	
5.	<p>Settlement Plan</p> <p>Chris Sullivan advised that checks were continuing to be made across the campus. While no new issues had been identified, any issues arising would be subject to immediate action.</p> <p>He also updated the group on ongoing drainage works. A programme of intrusive works had been identified and will be completed as soon as possible, with a programme of works to be provided to a future meeting of the SRG. This programme would be made available on the council website.</p> <p>He addressed a question from the group about any impact on the water table.</p>	
6.	<p>Air monitoring</p> <p>See matters arising above.</p>	
7.	<p>Groundworks</p> <p>See Settlement Plan above.</p>	
8.	<p>Communication – SRG Website</p> <p>Further updated to be provided by Stephen Penman to next meeting. See Any Other Business below</p>	
9.	<p>Health - arsenic</p> <p>A discussion took place about testing commissioned privately by individual parents for arsenic. Caution was urged about conclusions to be drawn from this testing, with Dr Davidson to make further enquiries about validation of the results. The chair advised that any future discussion should be at SRG meetings and not individual action by group members.</p>	
10.	<p>Site visit – Dr Davidson</p> <p>Dr Davidson agreed to a campus visit with parent representatives. Chris Sullivan to arrange.</p>	
11.	<p>Briefing of MSPs and councillors</p> <p>The Chair advised that he had met with two MSPs and a councillor. He reported that the meeting had been positive and that the politicians had recognised the role of the SRG in restoring confidence.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that he had met with pupil representatives. He advised that a common theme was that pupils wished to focus on the future, not the past. Pupils also felt that gossip and speculation increased concerns and that the publication of the</p>	

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	<p>independent review report had been reassuring. In respect of SRG meetings, pupils felt that information received was helpful but that ongoing debates about process and representation were not considered constructive. They had suggestions about how social media could be used as well as website updates.</p>	
12.	<p>Progress against independent review recommendations</p> <p>The group considered a report by North Lanarkshire Council on progress against the recommendations of the independent review and noted the significance progress made. Andrew McPherson undertook to ensure that all PCB reports would be published on the council website.</p> <p>There was discussion about the gas membrane testing. Chris Sullivan reiterated the challenge of physical testing of the membrane and that no issues have been identified in the gas management system. He advised that the council's consultant would undertake a site visit in early 2020 with any feedback to be reported to the SRG.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that the group was satisfied with progress made.</p>	
13	<p>Any other business</p> <p>A question was raised about progress on a SRG-dedicated website, with some concern raised about development. Stephen Penman will update the next meeting of the SRG.</p> <p>The timely issue of minutes, agendas and reports was raised. Progress in this area should be made as soon as possible.</p>	
14	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 January at 5pm.</p>	