



Maria Regina College

Creative, Innovative, Professional

Maria Regina College Gharghur Primary

St. Bartholomew Street, Gharghur GHR 1013 Malta

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Minutes of School Council Meeting held on 05 March 2021

Members Present:

Ms. Ben Portelli – Head of School
Ms. Carmen Grech - President
Ms Debbie Theuma - Kindergarten Educator
Ms Yvonne Mifsud - Learning Support Educator
Ms. Mandy Boulton Cassar - Parent
Ms. Oriana Abela - Parent
Mr. Ruben Overend – Parent

Excused

Ms Marisa Pace

Microsoft Meeting

This School Council Meeting was held on Microsoft Teams due to Covid-19 situation.

Update re Covid 19 Situation

Ms Ben informed the school council that YR 2.2 and School Van students have been put in mandatory quarantine by the Health Authorities after a Covid case at school. These children will be able to get back to school on March 11th. We had two covid cases, one in Year 5 and one in Year 6, but the Health Authorities said that there was no need for mandatory quarantine in these two cases. A student in Year 4 also tested positive to Covid. However, in this case, there was no contact at all with the other students as the particular student had not attended school for a number of days.

Ms Ben said that it is the school's duty to inform parents in the respective classes of the positive cases. However, it is the Health Authority's Contact Tracing team that decides who is put in mandatory quarantine and who isn't. Rather than sending an email, the School felt it more appropriate to phone the families of each and every student of the respective classes to inform them of the positive cases.

Mandi B.C. said that there were a number of rumours about cases in school. Ruben O. said that timely and accurate information by the school dispels rumours. He said that it is important that the school is clear in its communication and that it gives updates to parents.



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Ms Ben said that in spite of the Year 6 students not being put in mandatory quarantine, many parents decided not to send their children to school as a precaution. This resulted in a situation where only two students turned up at school. This made the situation very difficult for the class teacher to continue on the Year 6 curriculum leading to the Benchmark exams. After discussing the situation, a professional decision was taken by the SMT and Ms Christina to address the needs of these students. A daily online lesson of one hour and fifteen minutes was being given by the class teacher with particular focus on those subjects and topics where students required an explanation. Ruben O. suggested that the parents' representatives on the school council send a thank you email to the Year 6 class teacher.

Students not attending school

Replying to a question raised by Ruben O., Ms Ben said that students who are being home-schooled following a decision taken by the parents not to send their kids to school will still be allowed to do annual exams. Ms Ben said that in these extraordinary times, everyone should be more flexible.

School Yard

The educators' representatives on the school council raised concerns over the current condition of the rubber tiled section of the school yard which is now being considered a hazard. Ruben O. suggested that we call the School's Health and Safety Officer to assess the current condition of the soft flooring of the yard so that appropriate action is taken. The school yard falls under the responsibility of FTS which has already been made aware, a number of times about the current situation. In the meantime, the school council is finalising the process to order the thermoplastic for the cemented section of the school yard.

- ENDS -