



## **PARENT COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BEARSDEN PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017 IN THE SCHOOL STAFF ROOM**

Present Mrs Catriona Smith (Head Teacher)  
Mrs Aileen Wilson ( DHT)  
Chris Dorman  
January Morgan-White  
Gillian Lennon  
Claire Turner  
Neil Cochrane  
Thomas Asprey  
Rachel Huston  
Natalie Devine  
Jennifer Shearer  
Lorna Mitchell  
Tara White (Clerk)

#### **11/433 Welcome & Apologies**

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming along. He also welcomed our new Head Teacher Mrs Catriona Smith to her first BPS Parent Council meeting. Apologies were noted from Debra MacFarlane, Stuart Dickson, Wendy McLaren, Councillor Small, Councillor Moody, Councillor Cumming and Councillor Shergill.

#### **11/434 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Chris thanked Stuart Dickson for chairing the last meeting in his absence.

#### **11/435 Matters Arising**

January raised an issue on behalf of Wendy regarding the cost of school trips. Wendy had been approached by some parents who were concerned about the cost of the upcoming residential trips for P6 and P7 and in particular the P6 trip to Millport. Some parents feel that the prices are quite steep. Mrs Smith explained that with the P6 trip two buses were required which was a significant part of the price. With regards to the P7 trip because of numbers Ardmay House whom EDC have a link with was not viable and the cost of Lockerbie Manor which is privately operated is higher. Mrs Smith said that Lockerbie do have a huge amount of fantastic quality activities to choose from but that she could understand the concerns. The group discussed the matter and a number of suggestions were made regarding payment plans and possible fundraising events which the children could be involved with which could help lower the costs like having a stall at the summer fayre. January and Claire will also raise the issue with the FRG and gather some feedback.

An incident was raised on the P1 parents Facebook page where a plank of wood had fallen on a pupil and this had caused some concern. Mrs Smith explained that

there was a small gap between the two pillars which support the wall at the bike container. A piece of wood had been put in place to stop any children getting into the gap and perhaps getting stuck. The wood should have been fixed securely in place and it's unclear why this wasn't the case but the matter has been raised with Health & Safety. There has already been one site visit and Mrs Smith is waiting for another visit where she will establish what is going to be done to prevent any other incidents.

Chris raised an issue on behalf of a parent who felt that there was a lack of vegetables being offered at lunchtime. Lorna also mentioned that sometimes children couldn't get vegetables unless they were getting a particular lunch. Mrs Smith and Mrs Wilson said that the canteen staff were usually very good at offering vegetables and trying to accommodate individual requests but that they would pass these concerns on.

Neil spoke on behalf of a parent who had given him a copy of the Scottish Book Trust's My Reading Passport and who was concerned that the First Minister who the parent feels is a very divisive character was named on literature given to the children. Mrs Smith explained that the Scottish Book Trust are delivering this initiative on behalf of the Scottish Government and the First Minister who is sponsoring it. It is called The First Minister's Reading Challenge and all schools in Scotland are required to participate.

#### 11/436 Chair Report

Chris said that there had been a lot of changes since the last meeting. Mr Meehan has successfully taken up his new post and has been in touch and sent his regards. Mrs Smith has taken up her new position and Chris again welcomed her to the school and handed over to her for her Head Teacher report.

#### 11/437 Head Teacher Report

Mrs Smith presented her HT report to the group which is attached as an appendix to these minutes. Mrs Smith is now looking at planning ahead for the next session and asked the group if between now and the next meeting they could think of any areas that they would like to get involved in that might directly benefit the children and also how the PC might be able to help in getting the views of the wider Parent Forum. Mrs Smith thanked the FRG for the funding for more ipads for the lower school staff.

#### 11/438 Newsletter Suggestions

The issue of road safety and parking will again be raised. There were no other suggestions.

#### 11/439 AOCB

Lorna spoke about a discussion which took place at a previous meeting about parking and road safety and where there had been a suggestion that the children could make posters highlighting the issue which would be displayed on the railings. This will be looked into.

The next meeting will be on March 16th 2017 at 7pm.

Signed by:

Chairman BPS Parent Council

Date: