

Parent Council Minutes Monday 1st June 2020

Present: David McArthur, Mary Turban, Jillian Rawlings, Mairi Frame, Nuzhat Uthmani, Lorna Thomson, Alison Condron, Kathryn Foye, David Frame, Evelyn Oliphant, Grant Maybury, Nikki Winning, Hazel Dobbie, Kirsty, Ross Claire Hendry, Fiona Johnston, Julie Cameron, Anne McNaught, Michelle Hyslop, Michelle Stewart, Pauline Bradley, David Leaf, Lorraine, , Graeme Salmond, June Deneven, Kirsty Smith, Alision Condron, Ross McKay, Tracey Fullerton, Lindsey Potter

Apologies: NA

Matters Arising

- Welcome from David McArthur to AGM.
- Welcome and thank you from Mrs Johnston

Minutes

Previous minutes approved by N. Uthmani & K. Foye

Matters Arising

Refunds were provided for school trips – some are still being pursued by ERC.
Some issues with parent portal – any issues should be reported to the office.
Thank you to the office staff for their help with Parent Portal.
Mr McArthur shared a card with PC from Mr Sinclair former HT, thanking everyone for their help and support during his time in post and wishing the new HT and PC his best wishes for the future.

Chairs Report

Thank you to Jean Hepburn for the report – see below. Thank you to Jean for her years of service to the Parent Council.

What a year!!

Despite only being in school until March we had a very busy time.

We were very proud of BHS receiving 3 awards

-Schools Sports Gold Award

-Vision Schools Award

-Digital Schools Award

This shows the dedication and commitment of staff at BHS.

We were involved in many activities including wear it pink day and the collection for the food bank.

The pupils enjoyed many fun events including a whole school trip to the cinema, the ghost tour and a sponsored cycle.

My highlight had to be the school show "Annie Junior". An outstanding performance.

Although most trips were cancelled, my thanks go to staff for ensuring parents were refunded.

One thing the parent council is proud of is the purchase of the laser cutter. It was well used to support front line staff, including my own team of nurses, producing over 800 masks. A massive thank you.

The PC asked departments for a wish list, we bought sound bars, head phones, contributed to trips, pulse oximeters and lots more.

The annual quiz night was cancelled, we still have 3 prizes, a TV, IPAD and overnight stay at the Normandy Hotel for the rescheduled quiz night.

The PC took part in the virtual health awareness week, where acts of kindness were rewarded and the sponsored conic hill virtual. Money raised was donated to the include me 2 club to help give meals to vulnerable families during lockdown.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all the hard working staff, especially during lockdown, providing online teaching and estimated grades.

We said goodbye to Margaret Elliot, a great supporter of the PC. We also sadly said goodbye to one of our former pupils, Steven Ingram, whose funeral was well attended. Mr Sinclair had a few attempts at escaping, until his retirement in August. We are sure he is enjoying hill walking and golfing.

I would like to thank David McArthur for his support as Vice Chair and Anne McNaught and Brian Elder for role as treasurers.

I would like to welcome Mrs Johnstone and send my best wishes to her. Best wishes also to the new office bearers and all PC members. It was great to be part of the PC and the BHS family.

Thank you for all my lovely gifts and I will see you all at the re-scheduled quiz night.

Warmest wishes,

Jean

Treasurers Report

The balance remaining from last session is £1261.87. Money is still being held in parent pay from the quiz night which was canceled but it is hoped this can be rescheduled in the near future.

School Report

- Thank you from the HT to Jean Hepburn, David and Anne McNaught for supporting the work of the PC.
- HT focus on creating a safe environment for staff and young people returning to school. Feedback from staff and young people has been very positive. Young people have adapted very quickly and positively to the changes, e.g. staggered breaks to reduce numbers in social spaces and face masks for moving around the corridors. We hope to have an update regarding PE in the near future.
- All pupils now have access to their lockers again and S1 will be allocated lockers very soon.
- Mental Health First Aiders are on hand to provide a walk and chat in the park with any young person who might benefit from an opportunity to chat and off load through any worries, questions or concerns they have.
- Pastoral lessons for all year groups will focus on mental health and wellbeing for the next few weeks (5 weeks in total).

- All young people will be issued with the wellbeing survey again and again pastoral staff will follow up with any concerns.
- We will continue to provide targeted supports for individuals such as nurture and counselling.
- Clubs for S1 are now being organised and delivered and we hope to extend to other year groups soon.
- DoE is currently reviewing how young people can volunteer and advice on this will be shared when confirmed.
- HT has sought feedback from parents and young people and will take this on board as we continue to plan and respond to Covid

Appointments:

1. Lorna Ross will be taking forward pupil voice champion.
2. Julie Bryce will be taking forward tracking and monitoring.

In supporting learning loss there are many interventions already in place such as:

- supported study has started for young people studying N5 level in S4 and S5
- supported study for higher pupils will be offered in 6 weeks following on from the N5 block.
- Staff have offered to give up their time during the October break to provide additional learning in school.
- Newly implemented tracking and monitoring systems will identify quickly who needs a mentor and support.
- The English department has introduced a new online resource – Literacy Planet
- The school is currently recruiting additional Pupil Support Assistants to further support teaching and learning in classrooms.
- Supply staff have provided staff with additional time to conduct robust learning conversations at all levels across the school.
- We are not delivering blended learning but there are a range of resources available online for those requiring it.
- A homework club for S1 and S2 pupils will be starting in the very near future.
- Attainment has been the best it has ever been with 5+ N5 reaching 65% and 5 Higher 23%. Re SQA attainment the school has exceeded every target.

Parents

- School website updated with a digital parent section. Mrs Bradley and Mr Herd have been working to place all resources in the one location making it easier for parents to navigate. A Form is also available on the website which parents can use to submit a help request linked to a digital matter.

DYW

- We will continue to offer virtual opportunities and parents are asked if they can offer any contributions to get in touch, e.g. virtual work experience placements.

Facebook

- Some staff expressing concern at the negative comments on Facebook. The school now provides a weekly bulletin which hopefully addresses some of the issues raised on Facebook. The school asks that all queries be referred to the school.

Digital

- Staff have been asked that all feedback to learners is via Google Classroom rather than SMHW.
- A number of parents experiencing difficulty accessing Parent Portal. All issues should be reported to the school office. HT to raise at HTs meeting.
- ERC is seeking to allow parents to access their child's Google Classroom to view work and comments.

Vacant Offices

Election and Nominations confirmed for session 2020 - 2021

Chair: David McArthur

Vice Chair: Nikki Winning

Treasurer: Anne McNaught

AOCB

- Request that pupils are reminded to remove any rubbish from the old astro.
- Arrangements for parents evening will be confirmed through the bulletin following responses from the parent survey. Although, please note these may be subject to change in light of changes to Covid.
- S4 parents will receive a tracking report in the next couple of weeks with suggested interventions. This will be followed by a full report in October.
- License requires to be renewed for raffles. D. McArthur to organise.
- Request to discuss the behavior of S1 pupils in Cowan Park on Saturday night.
- PC has been asked for feedback on how the Education Department has managed the return to school. Anyone wishing to comment can email dmcarthur@ntlworld.com with your feedback on:
 1. One thing Department did well
 2. One thing the Department can improve
 3. One thing they should consider as we move forward.

Comments will be collated and return your comments to ERC Education Dept. before the deadline of September weekend (25th September).

Next Meeting

Mon 5th Oct 2020

Mon 2nd Nov 2020

Mon 11th Jan 2021

Mon 1st Feb 2021

Mon 1st March 2021

Mon 10th May 2021

Mon 7th June 2021