

Parent Council Minutes

Date: 09/05/23

Present: Fiona Johnston (Head Teacher), Nikki Winning (Chairperson), Michelle Stewart, Michelle Hyslop, Grant Maybury (DHT), Wendy Moultrie, Mary Turbun, Ross Mackay, Adam Beaton (DHT), David Frame, Kathryn Foye, Julie Cameron

Apologies: Lorna Thomson, Nuzhat Uthmani

Notes of discussion		Action points
1. Previous minutes		
Minutes: Proposed by Michelle Stewart. Seconded by Wendy Moultrie.		
2. Parent Chair Report		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connect Parent Council Insurance Policy is changing. This is insurance which covers parent council events within school facilities across East Renfrewshire will no longer operate in the same manner. They propose that this will be paid by each individual parent council.• Kathryn and Nikki attended the Diversity Day and enjoyed the event. There were parents from the lower school in attendance and this allowed an opportunity to share the work of the parent council.		
3. Treasurer report		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer sent her apologies. Chair provided an update: there is no chance in the funds.• F. Johnston confirmed £170 for S6.		
3. Head Teacher Update		
Raising achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you to the Parent Council and families for supporting our Diversity Day. S1 learners led and organised a fantastic event. Feedback from all was positive.• The Scotsman league table, which demonstrated the performance of schools against their virtual comparator, was shared. Barrhead High School ranked as the 3rd over performing school in Scotland.• Aim is to offer all year groups an event or initiative to lead to develop confidence and to lead their own learning.• P7 Connects group was a success this term. Learners requiring additional support with their transition have visited the school to participate in a range of activities to connect with the school and to 'find their hook' to encourage improved attendance.• The John Muir Award will be reintroduced for S1 learners as part of their transition to Barrhead High. Learners will have the opportunity to develop their skills, whilst working outdoors to explore their local wild areas.• YPI will be introduced for new S3 to campaign for local charities and to compete to win £3,000 for their charity.• New S4 were all offered the opportunity to train to become a MPV Ambassador. They will lead the initiative across the school and support new S1 with their transition throughout the year.		

- We will be looking for support from young people and ideas to transform the area at the back of the school. The area will be used to promote outdoor learning and sustainability.
- We are introducing new courses next session including STEM Ambassadors, Leadership Award, First Aid Award, Health Care and Sports Leadership. The L5 and L6 Awards will broaden learners' horizons and career pathways.
- Following on from our consultation on PEF spending, we have appointed a Youth Worker to support learners to participate in the wider life of the school.
- We are looking forward to our celebrating Achievement evening, P7 Information Event and Graduation and Prom.

Raising Attainment

- S3 assessment results are promising. All learners will receive an interview from a member of SLT to review progress, set targets and offer interventions. Learners should aim to add 10% to November prelims.
- £15,000 of the school budget was invested in supported study last session. A range of approaches were used including 'Supper and study' to increase the uptake. Staff will continue to listen to learner feedback. Parent Council were asked to support via promotion of facebook and Twitter.
- We received funding for our Easter school this session. Funding will not be allocated next session, charges will be introduced for families who are not FME.
- Presentation rates for Advanced Higher have doubled. Further update will be shared in new term.

Delivering excellent experiences

- New policy and toolkit will be launched to ensure consistency across the school. Each term we will take a section of the policy and offer CLPL to all. There will be walkthroughs to capture and share best practice.
- It would be positive if parents and carers could be involved in aspects of our self-evaluation to identify strengths and improvement priorities for learning and teaching.
- Home learning in S1 and S2 will be a focus next session to ensure learning is relevant and helps our young people to develop the Barrhead Capacities.

Next session aim is to involve parents in lessons.

Reviewing our new learning and teaching policy and toolkit

- A Beaton shared the background of the Learning and Teaching toolkit: the aim was to develop an interactive policy which would be of use for effective learning and teaching.
- The toolkit is aimed to ensure consistently excellent experiences for all learners across the school.
- A Beaton shared the Learning and Teaching Policy and Toolkit with parents.
- A Beaton explained the key features of effective learning and teaching at Barrhead High and sought feedback on this.
- Feedback was very positive and parents recognise the efforts that have been put in. Suggestion around bookmarking and creating a log for staff alongside the site.
- Discussion around the next steps to develop learning and teaching approaches and self-evaluation.

- Standards and Quality report has been written. This will be updated with attainment data and shared with parent council ahead of the next meeting.

4. AOB

- Rainbow run on 10th June was cancelled by the organisers.
- Shared the Blackpool Trip was organised and the school is currently running at a deficit.
- Volunteering opportunities are being sought by T Oman for the Fayre (D&T).
- Volunteers have been sought for tea and coffee for the Celebrating Success Evening. Michelle Hyslop and Wendy Moultrie volunteered.