

## Bellahouston Parent Council Minutes

Monday 22 January 2024, 6 – 7.30

In person – Bellahouston School Classroom

Attendees: Barry Mochan (Headteacher), Vanessa Redmond (Chair) Sam Miller, Gerry Hogan, Kieron Redmond, Allana Kelly, Morvin McCormack

Apologies (Angela Bewick)

Agenda:

1. Election of Office bearers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

No objections had been received so the office bearers were elected as follows:

Chair – Vanessa Redmond

Secretary – Angela Bewick

Treasurer – Sam Miller

Frances Brown (Bellahouston Academy School Office) was co-opted as a member of the Parent Council (nomination Sam Miller, second Allana Kelly).

2. Ways of working

It was agreed that Allana Kelly would be back up chair should Vanessa Redmond not be present, and Gerry Hogan would be back up minute taker should Angela Bewick not be present.

There was discussion of how the Parent Council wanted to communicate with parents.

It was agreed that future communication needed to clarify the scope of the Parent Council and Parent Council meetings, in particular to ensure everyone understood that they were not an opportunity to discuss questions or concerns around individual pupils at the school.

It was agreed that a short letter would be drafted for all parents/carers introducing the Parent Council, explaining its scope and purpose, how to contact the Parent Council as well as how to contact the school for any questions about individual children. This text would be sent to Parents/Carers and it would be used as the basis for a Parent Council website (ACTION: VR to draft text for letter/website for views and KR to then develop simple website).

Text messages informing people of forthcoming parent council meetings would then provide a link to the website, which would include the meeting date and pinned information about the purpose of the Parent Council and meetings.

It was agreed that once the website was up and running, multilingual videos should be developed to ensure the information was accessible to all (ACTION: BM to check

data for main languages spoken in the school and to ask for volunteers within teaching faculty to record videos).

It was agreed that a poster would be developed using the information from the website to be put up on a noticeboard near the Headteacher's office, which would include how to contact the Parent Council and dates of future meetings (ACTION: VR/KR).

BM highlighted the following opportunities to engage with parents:

Feb 21 – S5/6 Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30

March 27 – S1 Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30

May 29 – S3 Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30

Information evenings for incoming S1 – June date tbc

The aim initially would be to make people aware of the Parent Council and to gather names of those interested in learning more.

ACTION: All to let VR know if they are available for any of the dates above.

### 3. Priorities for the parent council

There was a discussion about priorities and the following list developed:

- Fundraising
- Consultation and challenge function for the school, providing feedback on school policies and plans
- Drawing attention to issues raised by parents and carers/on behalf of parents (collective or general issues, rather than issues about individual pupils which should be raised by parents/carers direct with the school)
- Using skills to support the school, and building network of skills available across the parent/carer body to support the school
- Lobbying and advocating on behalf of the school

There was discussion about possible fundraising options, including a possible second hand fayre ('Vinted IRL'). (ACTION: all members to consult their young people, BM to use pupil councils to get feedback on this idea).

ACTION: BM to seek feedback from teachers on what the priorities for fundraising would be.

### 4. AOCB

BM asked about whether it was possible for the Parent Council to get charitable status. ACTION: BM to send information about what the benefits of this would be and VR to look into process.

Next meeting:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 6 – 7.30

Draft agenda: Actions from previous meeting; HT report; Teaching and Learning Policy (for info); Tracking and Reporting (for consultation); Planning (considering next steps on possible fayre; how to gather info on skills across the parent body); AOB