

## **Braidhurst Parents' Group**

### **Minutes of AGM Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**School Library, 6.30pm**

**Present:** Claire Wright (Chair), David Clark (Vice-Chair), Jackie Thomson, Lesley Burns, Laura Biggart, Lynn Hogg, Lesleyann Dougan, David Young, Meghan Gallacher (Scottish Conservative Councillor Ward 17 Motherwell West), Carolyn Rooney, Ruth Anderson, Ruth Watson (Treasurer), Linda McGurk, and Kirsten Scott (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Moira May.

#### **Special Report regarding the current school building works from Cllr Meghan Gallacher:**

MG has spoken with Robert Stevenson regarding the current conditions of the school and clarified for the group that the capital program can be altered and expanded e.g.: to include interior works in addition to the work already agreed. MG added that R Stevenson will need to speak with Education and any changes to the capital program will need to be approved by Infrastructure. Plus still awaiting a response to the issue of replacing damaged/old blinds.

The group discussed the existing state of the school and agreed that we are looking for a "lick of paint" and improvements to the PE department and wall in the assembly hall.

DC stated that he felt MSP Graham Simpson (Scottish Conservative MSP for Central Scotland) was very helpful in terms of applying pressure to ensure that the school is given a proper finish.

DC also gave thanks to Cllr Gallacher for her assistance in this matter and the group agreed that she had been very helpful and responsive.

CR confirmed that a new site manager had been appointed and as such communication was now improved. The school Senior Management Team have been given a plan with dates regarding upcoming building works and this can be distributed amongst staff as well.

MG reiterated her wish that the parents' group keep her updated with the ongoing building works. She also felt that it was a good idea to involve MSP's as they are not in as close proximity to the council and as such can apply a different kind of pressure.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

1. CW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Moira May.
2. CW presented her chairperson's report – please see attached document.
3. CW reminded the group of the proposed changes to the constitution i.e.:

If no contact is received (apologies) by any member of the group after said member has missed two consecutive meetings they will henceforth be removed from the parents' group email list.

Group approved this proposal.

Increase membership of the group to 20 members.

Group approved this proposal.

CW will forward amended constitution to KS for inclusion on the parents' group area of the school website which will be posted alongside the current constitution for a period of four weeks. All parents will be texted alerting them to the proposed changes giving them time to raise any objections/concerns etc.

If no objections are raised the constitution will be permanently changed to include the aforementioned amendments.

4. R Watson presented her financial report.

Currently the group has funds of **£2,237.92** in the bank. The prom bid of £500 and the PE bid of £565 is pending deduction from our balance as it has yet to be paid out.

5. Election of Office Bearers.

The group voted to keep the existing office bearers in post:

Claire Wright – chairperson

David Clark – vice chairperson

Ruth Watson – treasurer

Kirsten Scott – clerk

CR would like her thanks and appreciation of the group and all their help to be formally included in the minutes.

## Parents' Group Meeting

### 1. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

DC has emailed Campbell Dwyer regarding the re-painting of existing line markings on the road outside the school which previously been agreed. DC is awaiting response.

### 2. Parental Engagement Leaflet

CW prompted discussion of parental engagement after distributing to the group a leaflet which offers advice to parent councils regarding conduct during meetings, model constitutions, and financial matters. CW feels that we are currently abiding with all rules in general.

CW will scan leaflet and email out to all members.

The group agreed to not make the meetings too formal.

### 3. Head Teacher's Report

CR updated the group with information on the current/upcoming activities of the school e.g.:

S1-S3 reporting  
S1 Outdoor Classroom  
S1-S3 timetable change  
P7 Parents Information Night

DY asked when parents of existing pupils can purchase items of school uniform.

RA clarified that supplier La Mirage are attending the P7 event and that parents can make purchases from 7pm onwards.

The group also received confirmation that La Mirage can put braid on senior blazers.

LH asked: when do senior pupils require braid on their blazer?

August 2018.

S4-6 Induction  
Summer Showcase  
Prize-giving  
Rewards Trips

LD asked when pupils going on the trip to climb Tinto Hill will receive their new timetable.

Group discussed the best solution to this and voted that the timetable be issued before pupils go on the trip rather than afterwards.

The rewards trips are: S1 to Blair Drummond Safari Park and S2-S6 to Alton Towers. Inclusion is based on pupil merits.

#### BGE Graduation

This event has been expanded to include outside speakers. At the ceremony pupils are presented with a certificate and senior tie.

CR commented how well the pupils looked in their uniform.

#### National 4 Programme

There was a programme of work experience and skill training for those Nat 4 pupils who are not sitting any SQA exams.

LMcG informed the group that for the first week pupils attended Forgewood Community Centre where they undertook training in First Aid and REHIS and received talks from the Credit Union and Routes to Work. Feedback from the community centre staff was very positive. During the second week pupils attended work experience placements.

CR distributed copies of the School Improvement Plan to parents for discussion and feedback.

#### General points included:

PEF staffing to stay the same. DHTs in charge of PEF will be invited to a future meeting to update the group.

PEF provision is inclusive as school are determined that no pupil should be excluded if there is a need for support even if SIMD information does not target them.

Literacy and Numeracy targets are to be expanded and existing initiatives continued and built upon.

In terms of Health and Wellbeing planning the school are pursuing an ASDAN award to appoint mental health ambassadors, there will be a Mental Health awareness day for S3 pupils, and the school will also be working towards LGBTQ Charter Mark status.

JT felt that these mental health initiatives are a positive step in the right direction.

The group discussed the pressures of social media on the mental health of our young people.

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) activities will be driven forward to achieve closer working with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) to ensure that all pupils reach a positive destination after school. Work experience has also been changed from a standard week delivered to all pupils at the same time to a week's work placement when it is appropriate to that individual pupil. Awareness of 'My World of Work' will also be increased and the school are planning an Enterprise event in order to make such skills more explicit.

LBu discussed how important it was to ensure that the application of skills learned at school were linked to usage in the real world.

DC suggested that the school contact Business Gateway to explore opportunities and possible partnership working.

The school now use a team to deliver DYW instead of having just one teacher in charge.

CR stressed how the school would appreciate any parental feedback on the School Improvement Plan.

**Next meeting planned for: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm in the school library.**