

Minutes of BHS Parent Council Meeting 27th May 2013

Present: Barrie Rutherford (BR), Gordon Miller (GM), Carolyn Watson (CW), Carol Jewell (CJ), Eleanor Rutherford (ER), Karen McDonald (KM), David Grant (DG), Jose Rodriguez (JR), Alisa Smith (AS), Candela Garcia (CG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Wendy Sinclair (WS), Lynne Bryce (LB), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE).

Apologies: Apologies Tom Dowie (TD), Judith Pearson (JP), Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA), Councillor Alan Grant (AG), Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS).

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting of the 17th April 2013 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings subject to the following alterations.

Carol Jewell (CJ) and not Caroline Watson (CW) reported to the Parent Council on the Awards ceremony

Rob Hunter has gone back to Perth Academy

No firm date had been set of the End of Term teachers' reception

Proposed: Karen McDonald

Seconded: Alisa Smith

Action

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 17th April 2013

BR confirmed that the letter in response to the HMI report had been sent. A reply is expected within 20 days.

BE asked if a date in August had been set for the River Isla event. It was intimated that the provisional date was to be the 30th August.

The bungee jump was scheduled for Friday 21st June at 11 am.

2. Presentation by Depute Head Teacher

Mrs Lynne Bryce Depute Head Teacher, Support for Pupils reported on the progress made to date in response to the Pupil Wider Achievement area of the HMI report. Part of the school's action plan had been targeted at pupil wider achievement. Individual achievements were to be recorded through e-portfolios and the use of the profile notebook.

There would also be the development of a whole school spread sheet which would collate pupil achievements both in and out of school. Success of this strategy would be measured by documenting the increased participation rates in a range of school based and non school based opportunities. Other success criteria would be giving support to pupils who might otherwise be unable to participate, the annual CRES awards and house completion. Progress would be measured by the collection and analysis of data on a term basis. Pupils' involvement would be monitored using the categories specified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Mrs Bryce then circulated a number of leaflets to the members of the Parent Council. The leaflets covered Health and Wellbeing, Drugs Education and Sex Education and were aimed at parents. She asked the members for feedback on the content and language used in the leaflets and if there was enough information given. It would be useful if this feedback could be received by the end of term.

Members of the PC to provide feedback on the leaflets

Mrs Bryce outlined the work being undertaken in conjunction with the police drugs awareness unit, health professionals and the partnerships that had been established with other agencies.

3. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Matters

A new Art teacher has been appointed. Sam Kennedy is due to start a week on Monday.

Mrs Waters is to retire at the end of the year

Mrs Norrie is to job share 4 days per week as from August

Mrs Stewart Computing has been declared surplus to requirements and will teach at Perth High 4 days a week as of August

Mr McGregor Support for Learning is retiring

Mr Darby is leaving at the end of session to take up the position of Principal teacher of Physics at Dundee High.

Five posts have been advertised and one filled.

Education Scotland Inspection Progress Report

GM reported that Ken McAra the Area lead Officer HMI would be visiting the school on the 6th June. The purpose would be to address the school's action plan, to comment on this and to give help in how to

deliver the planned improvements and do better. Ken McAra would like to meet with BR on the 6th June at midday to discuss.

BR to meet with Ken McAra

Carol McDonald and Ken McAra are to return to the school on the 20th June this time to specifically address the area of the curriculum.

As part of the Wider Achievement initiative through pupil voice pupils' views of their experiences in terms of relationships, teachers and building would be sought in order to further inform the action plan.

Teaching and Learning presentations had been made. Professor Loretta Giarelli had given a presentation concerning the importance of meeting learners' needs. Paul McWatt from Education Scotland had tackled the issue of raising awareness in connection with young people in a class room setting on a one to one basis and how teaching dynamics should change.

The SMT had decided that the Strategic Planning day should be on the 12th June from 1pm to 4pm. This should take the form of a number of discussion groups. In addition to teaching staff input was sought from 3 parents who were members of the Parent Council and from 3 Parents who were not members of the Parent Council. The Parent Council representatives were to be Jose (JR), Lesley (LW) and Carolyn (CW)

JR, LW, CW to attend strategic planning day

Curriculum Changes

A session had taken place with members of staff on possible curriculum changes. A session with pupils has still to take place.

GM intimated that it was proposed to meet with parents on Wednesday night to set out the various options in relation to possible curriculum changes. A meeting would be held with parents of 3rd year pupils at 6 15pm and thereafter with all parents at 7pm. Bev Leslie from PKC would be in attendance.

GM explained that there was no ideal model and there were pros and cons attached to any model that was to be adopted. The Curriculum for Excellence specifies that 8 curricular areas have to be covered. There are E's and O's within these 8 areas. There are 4 levels within the E's and O's and levels 1, 2 and 3 are mandatory within broad general to the end of S3.

Pupils are no longer permitted to choose subjects at the end of 1st year and pupils will no longer be able to present for exams before the end of S3. These are the 2 constraints which have been stipulated.

It is intended to outline 3 possible models to parents. The most appropriate model will depend upon whether the number of subjects available or the level of flexibility available is deemed to be the most important. The objectives is to try and meet all needs and to develop

people in order to enable them to reach their full potential.

There are 2 basic models. The 2+2+2. Choices are made at the end of 2nd and 4th years. Specialisation occurs at the end of 2nd year. Under this model it is possible to select 7 subjects and include wider achievement. However one subject must be chosen from each subject area. In the 3 3 model all subjects are undertaken until the end of 3rd year. There is however only 1 year until national exams are sat. Under this model you can only chose 6 subjects. However there are no restrictions.

These 2 models represent two extremes of a continuum. There is a 3rd model. This is used in Kinross High School. 1st and 2nd year are the same. You have the option at the end of 2nd year of 3 free choices. At the end of 3rd year chose anything you like. 7 subject areas are covered by this model. GM stated that it important to choose what best serves the school while not influencing parents. GM asked for feedback on the presentation. It was thought that the presentation was too complex and too full of jargon for the lay person to fully understand. The focus should be on what each model delivers – more subject choice or more flexibility. Parents should be able to make their judgements based on these tenants.

4. Treasurers Report

CW tabled the accounts for the year. These showed the balance of PKC funds standing at £654.36 and the balance of Charity Funds standing at £1704.53. The balance of the bank account therefore stood at £2358.89. There were however certain promises of expenditure made and a meeting had still to be arranged with department heads to decide on which items of expenditure identified to fund. TD was previously asked to arrange this.

TD to arrange meeting

5. Fundraising Sub Group Report

K McD had prepared draft leaflets in relation to the bungee jump. Gift aid was to be incorporated into the leaflet in order to maximise the level of fundraising. In order to reach as many people as possible it was agreed to hand out the leaflet at registration as exam leave had all but finished and all pupils would be back next week. K McD reported that the cost of 1000 leaflets black on coloured paper would be £92 whereas coloured ink would be £292. BR asked if the school could produce these. GM to investigate and let BR know the outcome. Money should be received by the 24th June and brought into the school office. There should also be a press release to the Blairie.

GM to investigate

BR had given the text to Wendy Peroni in connection with the Adventure Trip. This leaflet is to be similar in nature to the bungee jump leaflet. Health and Safety Regulations require that any pupils

participating will require parental approval. Nae Limits are to come along to the school in order to give a detailed briefing. Will Simpson will use the publicity leaflet to get as many people to participate as possible. The likely cost is to be £15 per person. BR to check with Nae Limits regarding possible age restrictions.

BR to investigate

The rag bag collection at Rattray Primary school was mentioned. Is this something that that school could do? CW to investigate this further with Alison James.

CW to investigate

6. AOB

WS asked why S4 did not get a booklet sent home. Parents need to know about school activities. The question was also asked why parents were not informed when work experience was finishing. GM to investigate.

GM to investigate

It was agreed that all members of staff, the head boy, the head girl, senior prefects, janitors, cleaners and unpaid staff be invited to an end of term reception. Personal invitations could be extended by small invitation cards being put in staff pigeon holes. KMCD to make up invitations.

KMCD to provide invitations

GM intimated that Alison the catering supervisor had more than doubled the number of school meals that were being served. In so doing the catering staff had been recognised as the best catering team in Tayside and had won a Tayside Catering Excellence Award.

7. Date of Next Meeting

As the cycle of meetings has come to an end a schedule of meetings for the coming year will be prepared. This schedule will be sent to members of the Parent Council at a future date.
