

## **Minutes of BHS Parent Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Present:** Barrie Rutherford (BR), Bev Leslie (BL), Carolyn Watson (CW), David Grant (DG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Judith Pearson (JP), Russell King(RL), Jose Rodriguez (JR), Eleanor Rutherford (ER), Wendy Sinclair (WS), Farah Adams (FA), Susan Whiteford (SW), Nicola Ross (NR), Claire King (CK), Councillor Alan Grant (AG), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE).

**Apologies:** Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA), Tom Dowie, Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings subject to the following amendment. Under HMI Progress Report HMI requested the meeting take place on the first week the school requested the second week.

**Proposed:** Judith Pearson

**Seconded:** Lesley Waugh

## 1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

WIFI communications day coming soon.

A meeting was held with Wendy Peroni regarding the school website. The front page of the website is easier to navigate and preliminary thoughts about the website is that it should include a consultation page, have pages covering pupil notices, key dates, key priorities and you have mail informing parents that pupils have a letter in their school bag, Other areas for consideration are pupil support mechanisms and school successes. BL to prepare a mock up of the website for the next meeting of the Parent Council.

BL to prepare mock up

## 2. Head Teacher's Report

### Curriculum for Excellence

BL intimated that it was decided to hold another parent information evening on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. This session is to be aimed at parents of S1 and S2 pupils in relation to the new qualifications. Pupils in S4, S5 and S6 are to get a letter directly from SQA explaining the new results service.

Essentially there are two services. The exceptional circumstances consideration service. This as the name suggests is an appeal to SQA to take account of some exceptional circumstance eg illness, bereavement which may have impaired the pupil's performance at an examination. Notice must be given to SQA within 10 days of the exam. The school needs to be informed the day after the exam. Evidence of the circumstances requires to be provided.

The second service is a clerical check. A parent can request a clerical check on the marking of a script. It should be noted that any change could be positive or negative. Where a mistake has been made SQA will meet the cost. However where there is not a mistake it is yet unclear who will bear the cost.

An alternative timetable is currently being drawn up for S4 pupils who are not sitting exams this session. This timetable will include higher master classes, self- directed study, SCHOLAR and other appropriate opportunities for learning life and work.

A Quality Improvement Officer in the form of the Principal Educational Psychologist visited the school. Among the areas examined were differentiation and meeting pupil needs. With regard to the former pupil feedback indicated that concrete improvements have been made in this area although there is still some way to go. A strategy to tackle dyslexia in young people that staff were pursuing was commended.

Pupils reported that staff on the whole understood their needs. In terms of the accessible curriculum enough was being made available in terms of alternative assessment arrangements eg scribes and extra time. Pupils felt they were being listened to during support time. Regarding personal support the time available was not always used appropriately. Staff were interviewed in relation to pupil support and it was found that they were clear about their role.

In particular the Educational Psychologist was impressed with the informal restorative conversations that were taking place and the use of SACRO questions.

Actions arising from this visit is that there is some way to go in terms of pushing the brightest and the best and that there needs to be more focus on different ways of learning.

All members of staff are presently evaluating progress against the school priorities looking particularly at key priorities for each year.

An in service day is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014. Two major issues are to be addressed. The vision and values of the school and workshop activities designed to examine what makes a good lesson. This will follow a collegiate approach and promote shared understanding.

### **Prelim Results**

These are presently being collated with an expected completion date of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Early indications show that in English the majority of students failed. This is due in part to a science teacher taking English in the run up to the prelims. This occurred due to staff shortages. BL to investigate but it was acknowledged that the English department had reported tremendous pressure this session

BL to investigate

It was confirmed that tracking and monitoring in respect of predicted grades is ongoing. These tracking and monitoring reports are internal reports which form the basis of the reports that parents receive. A mentoring interview results when things go off track. The tracking and mentoring report in its present format is not of much use to parents. However it is useful in the generation of parental reports.

Some departments are thinking about holding study clubs in the Easter holidays.

### **Staffing Matters**

BL reported that the Drama teacher post had not been filled. However BL had subsequently received a telephone call from a potential candidate. Mr Simpson had left the PE department and had been replaced by Miss McLean. SW asked about the gender balance in the PE department. BL replied that there were currently 3 female and 2 male

members of staff.

Currently adverts are running for vacant positions in English, Art and Biology. Next session there is to be 2 maternity absences. BL has requested probationers to fill these posts. The outcome of this request will not be known until next session.

### **School Uniform**

A swatch has been sent to the suppliers of the school logo and samples are awaited. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> it is hoped that all first year blazer fitting will occur. A slip will be given to each pupil intimating that if a blazer is purchased from this supplier this is the suggested size. Currently looking at the diary for other year groups. BL looking for funding for a prize draw. Prizes are to be blazers. FA asked if there had been any negative feedback. BL replied that there had been a facebook campaign no blazers in Blairgowrie but it had little effect. During the P7 visits there had been some questions but no objections.

### **HMI Report**

BR intimated that the original HMI report which did not show the school in a good light was still posted on the school website. BR was concerned that this might influence applicants for vacant posts. BR pointed out that this report was now over a year old and things had changed quite considerably. BL stated that the report will stay on the website until another HMI inspection had been completed.

## **3. Meeting between P&K Parent Council Chairs**

BR intimated that a meeting was to be held in two weeks with all Parent Council chairs and the Education Directorate. This was a chance to raise concerns with the Education Directorate. The difficulty in securing replacement teachers was seen as an important issue. BR stated that John Fyffe the Director of Education would be talking about budgets. BR to provide members of the Parent Council information on the meeting once it has occurred.

BR to provide info

## **4. Joint Treasures Report**

The fundraising monies stood at £663.13 and PKC funds now stood at £653.77. It had been possible to allocate at least some money to every single bid that had been received from the various departments.

## **5. Fundraising Subgroup Report**

#### **Raft Event –Update**

BR reported that John Strang of Nae Limits was to e mail him with a new set of dates and arrangements. BR to ask John Strang to come along to a meeting of the fund raising sub group. John has promised to investigate the possibility of other venues. BR to chase up.

BR to chase up

#### **6. AOB**

LW stated that feedback from the P7 parents had been excellent and that a good representation of the school had been given.

BL asked if any member would be interested in taking a table at the Muirton House Nursing home jumble sale in aid of Alzheimers. This was short notice as the event was scheduled for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March. BL intimated that good publicity had been received in respect of the Gala dinner. A few pupils had ended up with jobs.

#### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School**. It was agreed to set the date for the June meeting at this time.