

Minutes of BHS Parent Council Meeting 5th November 2013

Present: Barrie Rutherford (BR), Bev Leslie (BL), Carolyn Watson (CW), Eleanor Rutherford (ER), David Grant (DG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Wendy Sinclair (WS), Tom Dowie (TD), Judith Pearson (JP), Ailsa Smith (AS), Councillor Alan Grant (AG), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE).

Apologies: Jose Rodriguez (JR), Karen McDonald (KMCD), Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA), Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS).

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting of the 27th August 2013 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings. However it should be noted that the various balances recorded in the joint treasurers' report included all items of income and expenditure including those monies still to be received and those monies still to be paid out.

Proposed: Carolyn Watson

Seconded: Judith Pearson

Action

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 27th August 2013.

No matters were arising from the minutes of this meeting.

2. Election of Office Bearers.

BR informed the Parent Council that the election of office bearers must take place at the meeting held immediately after the Annual General Meeting. As this was this meeting it would be necessary to make such elections. BR intimated that he would be willing to act as chairperson for a further year. As all members of the Parent Council in attendance agreed this motion was carried and BR is to continue as chairperson for another year. CW and JP indicated that they were willing to act as joint treasurers for a further period. This motion was also accepted by the Parent Council and therefore CW and JP are to continue to act as joint treasurers for a further term. Karen McDonald had previously acted as secretary. Unfortunately K McD was not in attendance. It was therefore agreed to set aside the decision on the appointment of the secretary until the next meeting.

Decision to
appoint deferred
until next meeting

3. Head Teacher's Report

Curriculum for Excellence

BL intimated that a national leaflet entitled Great Learning in Scotland had been produced. There is to be a Blairgowrie High School version of this publication. This is currently in draft form and should be ready for circulation in about two weeks. All young persons are entitled to personal support. Under the curriculum for excellence this support is to be increased in the school. Vertical registration is to be introduced. This will allow another adult to help with learning and development. Senior pupils will be in a position to mentor younger pupils. The aim is to ensure that individual pupils have the same registration teacher throughout their entire school experience. It is intended to consult widely. We as a school will critically examine why we are following certain courses of action.

The next House Tutor time has been scheduled for the 13th December 2013.

HMI Progress

The school continues to be supported by Education Scotland. The RIF highlighted the need for differentiation in the classroom and this is what is being focussed on and linked to what HMI are looking for. HMI have agreed to another curriculum support visit. The return visit date is yet to be finalised but will occur in the new year. The focus is to be on principal teachers.

28 learner focus visits have been undertaken. These visits examine the experience of the learner. Early indications are encouraging. In 90% of the 28 classes visited learning intentions have been clear. 71% of success criteria have been clear and 82 children have been motivated. Opportunities to develop independent learning are to be extended. It is recognised that there will be difficulties in bedding this initiative in however the overall picture is quite positive. More learner focussed visits are planned for week commencing the 18th November.

Support for pupils is of paramount importance. As such teacher support learning is to be introduced into every class. One stop shops will be established for those pupils who require additional support. All information is to be rationalised and will be available in the one place. Self evaluation will be encouraged whereby connections can be made in relation to the information that is available. Parental support will be welcomed as this is seen as a crucial aspect of establishing and developing independent learning.

Staffing –Key Issues

The Principal teacher of Business Education Mr O'Hara is now in post.

An appointment had been made to the vacant post of Business Education. However due to personal circumstances the appointee declined the position. As there were no candidates forthcoming for the vacant Physics post it was decided to advertise this as a science post and to change the post from a permanent position to a fixed term contract. It was hoped that this action would result in attracting candidates. BL confirmed that all vacancies were advertised on the My Job Scotland portal and also in the Scottish version Of TESS.

Community Kitchen Refurbishment

There had been rumours that when the kitchen area was to be refurbished that the community kitchen would be lost. The kitchen had by custom and practice provided catering facilities to extra curricular activities supported by the school. BL stated that no plans had been drawn up yet. However there was no formal record of the area being utilised as a community kitchen and there were no usage statistics. BL asked if this was something that should be retained. It was agreed to try and retain this usage but not to lose sight of the fact that the refurbishment is needed and therefore the most important consideration.

4. Joint Treasurers' Report

CW intimated that there had been very little activity since the last report. The fundraising monies stood at £1692.53. The £820 expected from PKC had arrived and PKC funds now stood at £1053.60. The balance of the bank account therefore stood at £2746.13. There was still a commitment of £200 in respect of PE kits.

JP pointed out that part of the monies received from the Soutar Trust was to be allocated to a play concerning the Holocaust. As this was not now to take place it was suggested that this allocation could be channelled towards the production of the play a Mid Summer Night's Dream. Councillor Grant advised that it would be prudent to run this by the Soutar trust in order to secure their agreement. JP is to approach the trust.

JP to contact the Trust

5. Fundraising Sub Group Report

Raft Event -Update

BR had previously reported that due to the very low water levels the rafting event could not take place. BR was speaking with John Strang from Nae Limits at the week end and he has agreed to e mail BR with possible alternative dates for the event. It was pointed out that as it now gets dark at 4 pm it would likely have to be a week end event. It was also pointed out that due to the cold weather there was likely to be a significant number of people dropping out. BR stated that he would get a date from John Strang and would then e mail everybody

involved.

BR to e mail

Charity Shop – Coupar Angus

BR intimated that a slot had been booked for the week commencing the 9th December. Donations and volunteers were now needed. It was suggested that it might be possible to enlist the help of school pupils in the moving on group who require work experience. It might also be possible to involve pupils through the Business Enterprise initiative. BR to put a note together informing parents and staff of the charity shop initiative in Coupar Angus.

BR to compile

WS informed the Parent Council that Meigle Primary school had been awarded £9791 in lottery funding. This was used to purchase a wooden structure in the playground, play equipment and art and craft supplies. WS thought that Blairgowrie High School might successfully apply for lottery funding. BR to investigate. BR to fix a date for the next meeting of the fundraising sub group.

BR to investigate

BR to arrange date

6. P7 Parents Evening - Feedback

CW stated that the prefects were very helpful and well behaved. However it was felt that the whole evening was rushed. Too much was scheduled for the time available. Not enough members of staff were in attendance. A more detailed explanation of what the objectives of the evening were to be was required in the information disseminated. An opportunity to sell the school was missed. BL stated that 4 letters of praise regarding the evening had been received. However she was open to an examination of the format of the evening and would welcome any suggestions designed to improve it. BL reminded the Parent Council that members of staff participated in this event on a voluntary basis. BL was also keen to get parents involved in helping at the event.

7. Gordon Miller's Retirement Gift

The members of the Parent Council agreed to make a contribution to GMs' retrial gift. It was decided to send him a card and a bottle of Talisker. It was suggested that GM could be presented with this gift. There was an opportunity to do this at extended registration on Thursday, at the Dalmore in the late afternoon on Thursday or at the Head Teachers meeting on the 5th December. It was agreed that TD make the presentation on Thursday on behalf of the Parent Council.

TD to make presentation

8. AOB

BL told the Parent Council that there had been no change to the uniform code. Girls were not expected to wear leggings and the skirt length recommendation was knee length. There was to be a uniform sweep next week and record would be kept of those pupils not conforming to the uniform code. A subsequent sweep would then take place and a letter would be sent to parents whose children were still in violation of the uniform code. BL reminded the Parent Council that the uniform code was non enforceable.

It was highlighted that the school website was in need of an overhaul. Information was difficult to find and the content and structure needed to be refreshed – last year's handbook was still on the website. BL stated that nobody had responsibility for this and as it stands at the moment it meets PKC's requirement. Given the other competing pressures this cannot be given priority. However if there are any parents with particular skills in this area their help in populating and updating the website would be welcomed.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 10th December at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School
