

## **Minutes of BHS Parent Council Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Present:** Barrie Rutherford (BR), Bev Leslie (BL), Carolyn Watson (CW), David Grant (DG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Tom Dowie (TD), Judith Pearson (JP), Ailsa Smith (AS), Claire King (CL), Russell King (RL), Councillor Alan Grant (AG).

**Apologies:** Jose Rodriguez (JR), Farah Adams (FA), Eleanor Rutherford (ER), Wendy Sinclair (WS), Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA), Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE).

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings subject to the following amendment – it was not 82 children who were motivated but 82% of those children who were observed that were motivated.

**Proposed:** Judith Pearson

**Seconded:** Carolyn Watson

### Action

#### **1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

BR referred to the fact that at the last meeting there were no nominations for the post of secretary. BR asked for a volunteer. As there were no volunteers forthcoming the decision to appoint was deferred

Decision to  
appoint deferred

#### **2. Head Teacher's Report**

##### **Curriculum for Excellence**

BL intimated that nothing major was happening on this front. However the Blairgowrie High School version of the national leaflet entitled Great Learning in Scotland has now been produced and is to be circulated shortly to members of staff. This local leaflet is designed to complement the national leaflet. BL distributed copies of the local leaflet to members of the Parent Council. BL asked for feedback on the contents of the leaflet from members of the Parent Council. Is it accessible in terms of language used? Does it leave you with unanswered questions?

Members of the  
Parent Council to  
provide feedback

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A Parental Communication Group has been established. Four parents have been approached to participate in this group. Their children are of a variety of ages and are all at different stages educationally speaking. These parents also might not be involved in liaison with the school via the Parent Council. This is to ensure as wide a view is available as possible.

This week sees the last week of the quality meetings. Progress to date has been good. Principal teachers are undertaking self evaluation exercises examining strengths and areas under development.

### **HMI Report - Progress**

The school continues to be supported by Education Scotland. HMI have intimated that there will not be a visit between January 2014 and the Easter holidays in 2014. The reason for this is the change in leadership at the school. HMI want to give the necessary time to allow the new Head Teacher to settle in post. There will be however ongoing engagement with HMI during this time. Members of the Parent Council were of the view that this delay might be seen in a negative light by parents. BL suggested that in the next newsletter parents can be apprised of the progress as regards the HMI report. It was also suggested that a letter from the Director of Education keeping parents informed and reassured might also be a good idea. AG to speak to Peter McEvoy on this subject.

AG to speak to  
Peter McEvoy.

### **Bring your own Device**

PKC are about to roll out WIFI access to all members of staff and pupils. There are quite naturally concerns with regard to the implementation of this policy. It was pointed out that Crieff High School was an early adopter of this policy and it turned out that this has not been much of an issue. It must be remembered that technology is being utilised in order to enhance learning. The system will be subject to filtering and security measures and if problems arise it can be switched off. It is even possible to deny individuals who abuse the system access.

A recent survey to determine how many children have access to their own devices showed that 646 from 756 returns had mobile devices that were internet enabled. PKC have prepared a video for parents, staff and pupils in relation to the benefits of using WIFI. BL is preparing paperwork to send out to parents but this would not occur this term.

TD raised concerns as to the bandwidth capacity and that the IT platform was already in a state of permanent collapse. This initiative would bring more pressure on the system. It was conceded that the present system could not accommodate everybody accessing at the same time but that this issue was being examined.

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### **School Uniform Update**

The school had surveyed the pupils and there was a majority in favour of adopting a blazer as part of the school uniform. The school had therefore contacted several suppliers and had obtained samples which were on display for members of the Parent Council to view. There were variations in price and quality. Some were ECO friendly and others were not. BL requested the thoughts of the Parent Council on the alternative blazers. It was agreed to research another two suppliers and the school after having received feedback and comments would take the decision on who would be supplying the blazers.

Members of the Parent Council to provide feedback

### **School Website**

It was recognised that the Community School of Auchterarder had a very inspiring and innovative website. Wendy Peroni had intimated the same was possible at Blairgowrie High School. However this would require time and resources. BL invited members of the Parent Council to come into school and speak to her and Wendy Peroni about this issue. Volunteer would be sought early next term. In the meantime between now and the next meeting of the Parent Council members were asked to examine other school websites and feedback what features they would like to see incorporated into the BHS website. BL would also welcome e mail suggestions prior to January's meeting.

PC members to feedback via e mail or at January's meeting

### **Staffing Matters**

The Depute Head John Devine has been seconded to the post of Quality Improvement Officer for a period of 23 months. It will be necessary to appoint an interim Depute head for this period. Negotiations are underway with Kinross High School to appoint to a joint full time post in Business Education. The English department still has a vacancy. It is intended to advertise for a Drama/English part time post and to do this across all the schools within Perth and Kinross.

## **3. Joint Treasurers' Report**

JP intimated that she had contacted the Soutar Trust and had asked if the monies allocated to support the Holocaust play could be used instead to support the production of the play A Mid Summer's Night Dream. The Trustees were happy to support this. BL suggested that it might be an idea to invite members of the Trust to the production of the play. The English department is to be contacted and informed that the play can be financially supported.

Trustee to receive invites

The Maths department had purchased ten quick questions and this software had been installed on the computer. The Physics department had bought spectrometers for use on advanced higher projects. The

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OSCAR report had been completed and sent off.

The fundraising monies stood at approximately £2000 and PKC funds now stood at approximately £950. There was still a commitment of £200 in respect of PE kits and £400 to the English department.

It was stated that money should be ring fenced in respect of the Development Awards and the Hardship Fund.

At the moment departments were making bids to PKC in order to access funds for various projects. It would be useful if the Parent Council could be informed of any unsuccessful bids. These could then be examined by the Parent Council in order to establish whether or not they could find the monies to fund some of the unsuccessful bids.

#### **4. Fundraising Sub Group Report**

##### **Raft Event –Update**

BR reported that due to the adverse conditions the raft race had still not taken place. Those who were to participate in the event had been informed. Very few people had indicated that they wished to opt out and there was still a great deal of interest. It is unlikely that this event will occur this year. BR will debate where and when this will occur with Nae Limits.

BR to liaise with  
Nae Limits

##### **Charity Shop – Coupar Angus**

BR intimated that £200 had already been banked and that a further £190 was waiting to be banked. BR was still looking for volunteers to help at the Charity shop. Donations were pouring in.

It was agreed that the textile company at St Catherine's retail Park in Perth be contacted with a view to them uplifting items of clothing and rags unsold at the end of the week. IS to contact firm and arrange uplift.

IS to make  
arrangements

#### **5. AOB**

There were no items of any other business

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School. However due

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to the fact that Tuesdays were proving difficult for some members of the Parent Council it was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School.**

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