

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

**Present:** Barrie Rutherford (BR), Bev Leslie (BL), Carolyn Watson (CW), David Grant (DG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Judith Pearson (JP), Susan Whiteford (SW), Alisa Craig (AC), Susan Colby (SC), Eleanor Rutherford (ER), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE).

**Apologies:** Tom Dowie (TD), Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA), Farah Adams (FA), Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS), Councillor Alan Grant (AG).

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings subject to the following amendments

Under matters arising it should be noted that the Parent Council agreed to purchase display blazers in addition to those purchased for a prize draw

Under item 2 Head Teacher's Report the first sentence of the fourth paragraph should read – Curriculum for Excellence was originally seen as alleviating the assessment burden on pupils.

In relation to the item on Prelim Results it should be noted that this referred to English Prelim Results

**Proposed:** Carolyn Watson

**Seconded:** Alisa Craig

**1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**2. Head Teacher's Report**

**School Improvements/Priorities/Vision**

BL intimated that a new framework had been adopted by Perth and Kinross Council. Three or four strategic priorities would be concentrated on each year. In order to do this a self- evaluation exercise was carried out. The focus was on individual progress and also departmental progress. An exercise was undertaken whereby staff discussed what the priorities for the coming year should be. In this way the three big priorities were identified for next session. These priorities were learning and teaching in the senior phase, interdisciplinary learning in the BGE, and personal support and achievement opportunities. It may be however that some aspects of existing priorities will be carried forward to the new session. All departments however must align themselves with the school improvement plan. All departments are expected to fully implement the priorities within a year. Departments will embark on this at varying times when there is an advantage so to do.

BL intimated that personal support and achievement opportunities were supported by noticeboards, social media, newsletters and the school website. In order to support the development of literacy and numeracy skills a number of events have been planned. Among these are a Freshers week for S1 pupils. There is also to be an afternoon session on what's on in our community school as part of Freshers' week. Partners are invited into school on 11<sup>th</sup> June regarding the purpose of this event.

The Marines are to carry out a teambuilding day. The Fire Brigade are to undertake a fire safety awareness session. It is also planned to undertake a 'where's wally' exercise to enable pupils to identify key people. There will also be master mind sessions and a showcase event to which parents will be invited with the aim of embedding school values. These initiatives have resulted in a positive staff reaction.

Other achievement opportunities include S1 /2 being involved in a personal finance week with the citizens advice bureau and S4

benefiting from an enterprise activity.

A small sports event was arranged last week and was hailed as a great success and everybody participated. Three excursions have also taken place. Among the destinations was London and Strasbourg.

BL clarified the fact that in relation to new and existing Highers that there was more scope for independent learning and for pupils to undertake research.

Increased accreditation of the work experience being delivered on a Friday afternoon was now possible as this can now be certified by an SQA award.

There are clear indications that opportunities exist. However these were not always being recognised. Consultation had therefore taken place and everyone is signed up to ensuring that advantage is taken of what is already in place. It was intended for example to seek leadership accreditation for those pupils involved in such activities as this year's Strictly event.

Pupils in S1 to S4 worked with members of staff to create a vision for the future. 14 statements were formulated and a total of 378 votes were cast. The clear favourite with 93 votes was – where what we learn together today, will shape the world of tomorrow – ASPIRE! It was agreed that parents should see all 14 statements but for information purposes only. The top statement is to be adopted as this was chosen by the pupils and their buy in is required. It was agreed that a short snappy easy to remember and to understand statement was required. The statement as it is stands needs to be sharpened up but it is important that the meaning is not changed.

### **Prelim Results**

BL circulated a paper on the English prelim results. This was in response to the concerns that had been raised regarding the number of young people who had failed the prelim exam in 2014. The prelim results for 2013 were compared with the 2014 prelim results. This showed that the 2014 prelim results were actually better than the 2013 prelim results. When the 2013 prelim results were compared with the 2013 final exam results the final exam results showed a marked improvement on the projections being made by the prelim results. There is no reason to suspect that this year will be any different. Prelims are sometimes the wake-up call that pupils need going into the final exams.

## **Staffing Matters**

BL reported that the following members of staff were to retire

Mrs Young – Modern Studies

Mrs Williams – Guidance

Mr Kerr – Maths

Mr Murray – Music

Mrs McGregor – Guidance

Mrs Young is not to be replaced by a Principal teacher as Mr Anderson has previously been appointed as PT of all Social Subjects.

In Guidance, Mrs Williams and Mrs McGregor were each 0.5 FTE. The advert is to be for 1.0 FTE allowing realignment of 1 Guidance teacher to 1 house ie no split case -loads as is the case at present.

Mr Gilmore is to return Maths after a career break. Mr Gallacher is to be allowed to extend his probationer period and permission has been received to fill the Maths post vacated by Mr Kerr.

In PE, Mr Dymock has completed his probationer period. Mrs Cathro is going on maternity leave  
Mr Irvine has been appointed to the PE Department permanent appointment

In English, Mrs Graham has started maternity leave  
A new probationer is starting in the department  
Becky Toal has been appointed to a permanent position

### **Biology**

Jude Gillies has secured a permanent appointment  
Mr Sultan has secured a fixed term appointment  
Mrs Potter is on Maternity leave  
Mrs Atkinson returns after maternity leave on a part-time basis.

### **Art and Design**

Mrs Ross Is continuing as Acting Depute Headteacher  
Mrs Rae is welcomed as a probationer to the department  
Mr Rob Hunter has secured a permanent appointment  
Jennifer Yule has secured a fixed term appointment

## Modern Languages

An additional probationer has been secured, Mr Snee.

## Business Education

There is a part time vacancy caused by maternity leave. This vacancy is being covered by another member of staff, Mr Milne, although there is still a 0.2 deficit.

## Music

The advert for the Principal Music/ Drama position has been posted.

There is a non subject teacher in the Art department. Mr Crawford is currently on supply. Mr Hunter starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## School Uniform

There were questions raised on how the distribution of blazers would take place and how this would be recorded. BL agreed to liaise with interested parties in order to alleviate any fears there might be. Orders would be done on the day instead of pupils going home with a slip. Borders the clothing supplier is of the opinion that they will receive a large order on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. JC thought that this would be unlikely as orders would be placed at different times. The administration department have stated that there should be independent ordering by parents unless they experience difficulty online.

## School Ground Maintenance

At a meeting of the Fundraising sub group concerns were raised in relation to the fact that some parts of the school grounds were receiving no maintenance whatsoever. Among the areas were the running tracks and the long jump pit. BR asked BL to give a historical outline of the maintenance that was carried out. BL had raised the matter with the Perth and Kinross grounds maintenance team and had asked to be kept appraised of any progress in this area. Once signed over BL has requested that she is informed of the frequency of the maintenance interventions.

### **3. Treasurers Report**

In relation to the raft race funding event £490 had been received in deposits and to date £779.60 had been received in sponsorship monies. The total now stands at £1266.60. From this amount £200 had still to be paid to Nae Limits. There was however still some sponsorship money to be received.

The original bids had been revisited and it was observed that the English department had not done so well. In order to remedy this a grant of £250 was made for the purchase of reluctant reader books.

BL recorded her thanks to the Parent Council for their contribution to the hardship fund which allowed a young person to participate in an organised trip.

### **4. AOB**

It was confirmed that bring your own device would be switched on before the Summer holidays. This would allow any problems which were encountered to be addressed and dealt with over the Summer break.

The BBC had been in contact with a view to doing a case study on Strictly Sports Relief.

Stirling University had been in contact asking if the school wanted to participate in training for Principal Teachers.

There is to be an In Service day. This will involve Mr Phillips and 8 members of staff. Their remit will be to develop an understanding of what makes a good lesson. This work will form the basis of lesson observations next session.

There is to be a debate on the Independence issue. The Rotary Club is to be involved and MP'S Murdo Fraser and Pete Wishart will be on hand to answer questions. At the end of the debate pupils will then vote.

A Public Speaking debate is to be held in Harris Academy on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June

The Parent Council suggested that it may be an idea to put on an extended coffee and cake break. This would allow members of staff to meet with members of the Parent Council in a relaxed setting. A sort of welcome to BHS and we are the Parent Council. It would be preferable if this could be arranged prior to the

October break. It was agreed that this should be scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The Parent Council would need access to the staff room beforehand to set up.

5. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School.**

The AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Blairgowrie High School.**