

## **Minutes of BHS Parent Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**Present:** Barrie Rutherford (BR), Bev Leslie (BL), Carolyn Watson (CW), David Grant (DG), Lesley Waugh (LW), Judith Pearson (JP), Russell King(RL), Tom Dowie(TD),Eleanor Rutherford (ER),Farah Adams (FA), Susan Whiteford (SW), Alisa Craig (AC), Councillor Alan Grant (AG), Councillor Bob Ellis (BE), Councillor Caroline Shiers (CS).

**Apologies:** Claire King (CK), Jose Rodriguez (JR), Councillor Elizabeth Grant (EA).

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were approved as a correct and accurate record of proceedings.

**Proposed:** Carolyn Watson

**Seconded:** Lesley Waugh

**1. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

BL reported that the school website was expanding especially the pupil support section. The website is changing and building up beyond the Blairgowrie High school section. There is to be an in service day shortly and a short session is planned for parents and partners. A short session is also planned for pupils and this will occur on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

JP confirmed that Scott Riley from the blazer suppliers was coming to the school on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of June. The purpose of the visit was to measure the pupils for blazers. The firm had intimated that there would be a two to four week turn around. JP had her doubts about this timescale especially if the firm received a large order. JP confirmed that it was possible to order blazers on line and this was to be encouraged. It was pointed out that there would be a £4 to £5 home delivery charge. It was asked if the blazers could be delivered to the school. BL stated that the school is manned during the Summer holidays and therefore this would be possible. BL to check that somebody is available on the delivery day. JP reported that an invoice had been received in respect of the made up blazers. The parent Council agreed to buy these and they would be used as prizes in a school draw.

It was confirmed that budgets were still very tight and that no new capital expenditure was planned.

BL to check

**2. Head Teacher's Report**

**Curriculum for Excellence**

BL intimated that the Scottish Government had announced an extra in service day for Scottish schools. The date however was not yet known.

The school was focussing its attention on the school improvement / priorities plan. In this connection a meeting has been arranged with principal teachers. Thereafter it is proposed to meet with interested parties and partners.

The awaited national curriculum of the new nationals was about to go out for consultation.

The Curriculum for Excellence was originally seen as alleviating the burden placed on pupils. In practice however the reverse

seems to be the case. As the Curriculum for Excellence beds in things may become easier and there may be opportunities to accredit prior achievements.

### **Prelim Results**

There was no update available on Prelim results and it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

Item carried forward to next meeting

### **Staffing Matters**

BL reported that interviews were to be held for the vacant posts in Biology, English and Art over the next fortnight. There was a very strong leet in terms of numbers and quality. The probationer allocation for next session is awaited. The Drama post had been put on hold meantime as the school roll has decreased slightly. There is a maternity leave in the English department. Mr McTavish is to work in both the Physics and Maths departments next session as he is dual qualified. Mr Philips has the opportunity to become dual qualified. A number of maternity leaves have been notified. A request has been made for these to be filled by probationers. An appointment has been made to the part time vacancy in Business Education and the successful applicant is to start in May.

### **Personal and Social Education**

Parents have been in contact with BL about the lack of involvement and information available in connection with personal and social education. BL intimated that all parents have the right to withdraw their children from personal and social education. Parents also have the right to be informed about the programme. An updated information leaflet has been produced and this is available on the school website and is also being made available at information evenings and parents' nights.

Mrs Hill's room has been set aside for information purposes. Information is available on relationships sexual health and parenthood. Kits are also available in Mrs Hill's office. BL stated that it was up to individual parents or carers to deem if the content of the programme was appropriate for their son or daughter. BL stated that individuals were free to view the materials at any time, speak to house heads or guidance teachers. All they need to do is contact the school in the first instance. Any concerns will be addressed.

ER had been approached by a number of parents asking how prefects were selected. BL intimated that this was done by means of a teacher/pupil vote. All of S5 and S6 were eligible for election and also had the right to vote. There were a set number of prefects and it was a first past the post system. This could result in a pupil being a prefect in 5<sup>th</sup> year and again in 6<sup>th</sup> year. Conversely it might be the case that a pupil was unsuccessful in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years. HMI have stated that there is a clear need to make more leadership opportunities available across the board and this includes prefects. This would also include leading and organising events. It was pointed out that opportunities were being missed. Many P7's have leadership roles. However when they come into S1 there are not many opportunities available. SW pointed out that opportunities are available under the wider achievement programme. We need to accredit young people for what they have done. SW asked if there was a mechanism to feedback achievements to the school. BL intimated that the pupil profile was the way that this should be recorded.

### **3. Treasurers Report**

An application for a further development award had been received. Other than the foregoing there had been little change. The end of year accounts were currently being prepared.

### **4. Rafting Event**

It had been agreed with John Strang from Nae Limits that the rafting event would occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The event would start at Aberfeldy and finish at Grandtully. The bus would leave at 10 45am for a 12 noon start. The return time would be about 4 30 pm. There are over 30 people signed up for the event. All participants have been asked to bring a packed lunch. Nae Limits is to provide a photographer and publicity is to be put into the Blairgowrie Advertiser tomorrow. JP asked for a copy of the form BR to e mail JP a copy.

BR to e mail JP

### **5. AOB**

The charity shop in Coupar Angus had been booked for November. We need to be clear who can do what. To this end a template is to be set out. People need to make commitments early to ensure that there are enough people to run this initiative. Information regarding this event is to be put on the school website. The Parent Council is to have space on the school

website. It was mentioned that the old Howe's premises in Reform street in Blairgowrie was being used as a charity shop. It was suggested that this might be worthy of investigation as the location is better as it would be much easier to transport items and goods.

A teacher from an English school in the South of France had sought to make introductions and possible links with Blairgowrie High School. BL stated that the school in principle would be interested in this. BL asked for contact to be made with her in the first instance. TD stated that there had been links in the past through the British Council. However to do this properly took a lot of time and involved a lot of development work.

ER stated that the garden required to be weeded. Some pupils were to weed the garden on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May. ER asked if anybody knew where she could get bark chippings. It seems unlikely that the Council can help. CS stated that she would bring the matter up with Blair in Bloom at their meeting on Monday.

CS to speak to Blair in Bloom

#### 6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 at 6.30pm at Blairgowrie High School.**