

Brae High School – Parent Council

Minutes for Meeting Held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at Brae High School

Attendees: Sarah Johnson (Chair), Vivian Anderson (Treasurer), Shona Thompson, Shona Carter, Logan Nicolson, Billy Forsyth, Anne Bennett, Janetta Williamson, Jenna Peterson, Alison Martin, Kev Forth, Adrian Henry, Jackie Philips, Loren Manson, Shona Hughson, Astrid Nicolson(Clerk)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared apologies from Louise Wood, Emma McDonald and Janis Nicolson.

2. Approval of Minutes

Proposed by Vivian, Seconded by Loren

3. Shona Thompson – New School update

- A Progress Report was taken to the Council in mid March to seek funding to for external professionals to assist in the completion of the Outline Business Case, as this was not available inhouse. This funding was secured and we have commissioned the following to assist, Independent Project Manager, Educationalist, Architect and Cost Manager. The Architects are planned to come to the school this Friday for a tour of the site.
- There is a Workshop planned involving some key strategic Education leads including the Parent Council to home in the key curriculum needs for the school, .
- The Outlined Business Case is to be presented to the Council in the September cycle of meetings so this means it needs to be finished in the summer.
- Latest news on the bid process is the invites are to be sent out in September for submission in October with the announcement of successful projects in December.
- The Government have been looking at some to the metrics around Climate Change which may have an impact on the timescales for both bidding and the announcing of successful projects.
- Shona asked if an update to parents on the new school was needed at this stage? It was agreed that the school would put out a short update on this. **ACTION LN**
- There is a Shetland Place Based Review being held led by the Development Department and supported by Scottish Government and Hub Northern Scotland. The idea of this is to help address national, regional and local pressures. Brae as a whole is going to be part of this to help see what the area needs with regard to future projects i.e Energy Hub and Space Port with regard to Education, Health Centres, Fire etc.

There is no timescale on this as yet but the potential for the new school will be a large feature of this.

4. Chairs Update and Actions on Matters Arising

- **Activities at lunchtimes** – Secondary Pupil Council to speak to PE Dept to ask if they have anything spare. Primary are looking for funding for more equipment. Vivian said the Windfarms have a Fund available so an application could be looked at for this. Logan to ask Primary Teachers what they would need. **ACTION LN/PC**
- **Secondary Areas** – An order had been put into Ikea furniture for Soft seating and tables to help improve these areas.
- **Bins** – They have been emptied more often which has reduced the issue of litter. Plastic recycling bins are in place and working well. The school could look into getting recycling bins for paper also. **ACTION LN**
- **Multicourt Fence** – It is on the council agenda and will probably be a job for during the summer holidays.
- **New Area path** – Some of it has been cleared and new chips laid.
- **School Trips** – P7 have a trip planned to Burra for 3 nights and P4 has been to the museum. Billy to ask teachers to plan some school trips for next year. PC to see about possible funding from Windfarms. **ACTION PC**
Mrs Bennett is planning some trips to the Viking Energy Windfarms.
- **School Logo** – On hold. It was thought I would be good to design a new one for the new school launch.

5. Treasurers Report

- Balance in the bank on 29/3/2022 was £1055.33

6. Pupil Council Reports

- Secondary are currently doing exams so there has been no meetings held.
- **Primary Pupil Council** – P7 have reworked the School AIMS document to make it more primary friendly which they then presented to the whole primary in assembly.
Playground – waiting on better weather to get games painted on the playground and have new games to put out too.

7. School Report

- Logan ran through the attached report.

8. Primary Composite Classes

- Logan told the meeting that the school role is dropping below the threshold for having 7 teachers for the 7 classes within the primary. This number is 145 and the current school role to start the next school year is 142, therefore the council is looking to reduce the number of teachers to 6 and make composite classes. At the moment the priority is to keep P1 as a separate class and composite from P2 to P7. The school has had meetings with Children's Services to try and raise the points to keep the 7th Teacher and 7 classes but the council want to keep a up a consistent approach to this and have decided that the school will have to lose their 7th teacher.

Shona ask about the consistency as she was aware of Lerwick schools having 14 teachers and nowhere near the number of pupils to support that. Logan said he was unable to answer the question but it was something that the Parent Council could ask. She also asked how would the school cope if the role went up above the threshold, would the classes have to be reworked again causing disruption to the pupils? Billy said that if the role went above the 145 mark they wouldn't necessarily get another teacher, if more pupils came to the school it would be looked at and they had the potential if the class size went over the limit of 24 the teacher could agree to teach a bigger class but, they could also decline. It could also be looked at to move around just one or two pupils between classes so not to disrupt the whole school by re-compositing. Anne asked if they looked at the projected school role? Logan said the ELC can now defer so this can impact on the projection. The School has a probationary teacher so they would just finish this school year.

Vivian brought up the fact the school and pupils are just starting to recover from Covid and this would have a high impact on the wellbeing of everyone. There are also pupils that are missing out on the additional help they need to progress as they should so reducing the number of teachers would have a very negative impact on this. It also doesn't show much commitment and support to the school and pupils after the disruption of Covid and to their education. The Parent council feel that they should be part of the consultation.

Adrian asked how the school works out how to split the classes? Billy said they always try to keep P1 by themselves and take in consideration everything from gender, friendships, social and academically.

Sarah said the Parent Council would contact Robin Calder to express their concerns

ACTION PC

9. School Meals – Secondary Update

- Sarah asked if the pupils would be able to get back to the canteen seeing as Covid restrictions had lifted? Logan said that there wasn't the capacity to put them back into the canteen so they would continue to be in the Secondary, but there was vending machines now in place to give increased choice. There was going to be work done to the tuckshop area making it easier to access and were hoping to have hot trollies in place by the next school year along with the new cashless payment opt in on the day system.

10. AOB

- **Day of Action** - On Thursday 26th May all parents welcome to assist in the improvement of the school grounds. PC to assist **ACTION PC**
- **Class Photos** – Logan to look into options for this to happen. **ACTION LN**
- **Office bearers** - Looking to step down if possible, they would still like to be on the parent council just looking for new members to join with prospect of being office bearers .

11. Date and Time of next meeting

- Wednesday 21st September 2022