

Brae High School – Parent Council

Minutes for Meeting Held on Wednesday 21st September 2022 at Brae High School

Attendees: Louise Wood (Chair), Sarah Johnson (Chair), Vivian Anderson (Treasurer), Julie Johnson, Lisa Johansson, Danny Peterson, Magnus Ratter, Shona Thompson, Shona Carter, Logan Nicolson, Janetta Williamson, Kev Forth, Loren Manson, Claire Robertson, Astrid Nicolson (Clerk)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Louise welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared apologies from Emma McDonald and Adrian Henry.

2. Approval of Minutes

Proposed by Loren, Seconded by Sarah

3. Shona Thompson – New School update

- Shona gave an update on the current progress of the new school. She had hoped to be in a different position at this time but, with new government guidelines and increased building costs the projected rough cost for the building of the school has increased from £17 million to nearly £40 million. In light of that new permission has to be sought. It has been brought to the Education Families Committee who approved going ahead with the funding bid. It will go before the full Council next Wednesday. The site surveys are hoped to be back by the end of the month and the funding bid has to be in by the end of October. Shona noted that if the funding bid was unsuccessful the project would go back to refurbishment levels, with projected refurb costs being £35 million. Louise asked if any other funding avenues? Shona said not really.
 - Shona noted that the new school could give enormous potential for education and learning for the renewables sector and the consultation on Brae as a place was still continuing and the school was a big part of that.
 - Sarah asked if the report about the school could be sent out? Shona said she would send this to Logan after the SIC meeting for him to put out in the news bulletin.
- ACTION LN**
- Logan asked if any thoughts about the design of the school to make it a revenue stream instead of always a cost? Shona noted they were looking at what was required as there was a need for the school to be utilised all year round, they were going to look at the Community school in Inverurie which was doing this. Loren suggested the youth Centre could be incorporated.

4. Chairs Update and Actions on Matters Arising

- **Activities at lunchtimes/Outdoor Equipment** –PE Dept were worried about equipment going missing but wondered if a lending system could be set up. Danny is going to have a look in the store to see if there was some equipment that could be made available. Loren is to get Secondary PC to speak with Danny. Logan said the table tennis table could be taken out again. **ACTION DP/LM**
- **Recycling Bins for Paper and Cans** – Logan said it was being looked into but logistics of being emptied may be an issue.
- **Multicourt Fence** – Logan noted the issue had been logged with building services
- **Path in the new Area** – Only half has been chipped, Logan to check. **ACTION LN**
- **School Trips** – Julie to speak to class teachers about ideas. **ACTION JJ**
- **Days of Action** – Not a very good turnout, possible issue with being during the working day.
- **Class Photos** – Have been done, they were taken by a staff member in school, so the quality was not as good as a professional photographer which had led to some confusion with parents as they were purchasing them for the photographers in Lerwick.
- **Summer Ball** – There is an issue at the moment with the photos. Currently issue is with legal.
- **Letter from PC re Composite classes** – The PC wrote to and also met with Robin Calder to discuss their concerns. They received a reply from Robin Calder explaining the situation, he stated that unfortunately unless the number of role increased to 145, they wouldn't be able to increase the number of teachers but had taken onboard their concerns. Logan added that they had received some ASN support, but recruitment had taken a little longer than anticipated. They were also looking into how to make best use of ASN teachers and Learning Support Workers, by possibly having an ASN class with a few ASN pupils together.

5. Treasurers Report

- Balance in the bank £987.45.
- £49.95 has been raised from Easy fundraising.
- £500 plus another £250 was received from Scottish Sea Farms, some of this bought a picnic bench and they are looking into a wheelchair accessible one. Vivian noted there is money still ringfenced from the North Mainland Charity Shop that could be used for the swings the primary has asked for. Logan asked Julie to speak to Magnus Malcolmson about risk assessments. **ACTION JJ**

6. Pupil Council Reports

- **Secondary** - Loren introduced Magnus one of the PC representative. The Secondary had their first meeting yesterday and had raised a few things to be heard at the meeting:
 - Long Lunch queues were causing issues, Magnus noted these were having an impact on social anxiety, also some pupils were choosing not to have lunch as the

queues are so long, also the canteen staff were being put under a lot of pressure. The group had come up with some solutions for the issue such as, staggering year groups and making it rotational between the year groups, serving hot meals and baguettes in different areas and having the baguettes premade. Magnus also mentioned the lack of availability of hot drinks.

- Logan responded that the hot drinks vending machine had been looked at before, but they cost a lot of money that the school didn't have unfortunately. For lunch times there was a staffing issue as there was not a janitor at the moment. Sarah asked if Neil Beattie was aware of the issues? Logan noted the tuck shop was supposed to be refurbished over the summer but that didn't happen so, the facility wasn't fit for purpose, they are waiting on an update from Building Services. Claire suggested the Pupil Council could put a letter to Building Services? This was thought to be a good idea **ACTION LM/Sec PC**

Julie suggested the senior pupils could help with getting pupils out in rotation for lunch. Vivian Suggested approaching local businesses to provide a vending machine and it be run as part of their business. Logan said he was going to meet with Lynne Sneddon next week to try and find solutions. Louise thanked Magnus and both her and Logan were happy to see they were solution focused and not problem focused.

- **Primary** – Julie gave an update for the primary.
 - They are meeting every 3 weeks and had had 1 meeting so far which had been very productive and they had come up with a list of ideas- Some would like to mix with secondary for football, Hockey and Netball, Recycling and composting, they would love more swings, Scratch club, Bibs for using in the multicourt – Julie noted Mrs Kirkness is sourcing these for them already. They would also like some dairy free options in the canteen especially ice cream, Bins in the new area and the buddy system between the P6 and P7 with the ELC and P1 to happen again.
 - Learning and teaching surveys and being done in class so pupils voices are being heard.

7. School Report

- Logan ran through the attached report.

8. School Meals

- As above, issues raised by the Secondary Pupil Council. Logan is meeting with Lynne Sneddon to try and come up with some ideas and solutions to the issues. He is also waiting on an update from Building Services about the refurbishment of the Tuck shop/Canteen Area. **ACTION LN**

9. Staff Representative/Community Representative

- Logan welcomed Lisa Johansson and the new Staff Representative
- Louise noted that there was an opportunity for a Community Representative that wasn't filled at the moment.

10. AOB

- **Breakfast Club** – Loren asked if there was any way she could get some funding help with the breakfast club? It was funded through the COOP and other projects but with new government guidelines around food handling and nutrition this is no longer possible. Loren said she has volunteered for the 500 Club and is looking for some raffle prizes to raise money for the Breakfast club. Louise noted the PC could look into accessing different pots of money to help with this. **ACTION PC**
- **Office bearers** – Louise told the meeting they were looking to step down as office bearers, she noted they have had some expressions of interest to the letter sent to parents recently and these had been invited to the meeting and the AGM in November. She also noted the PC would be attending the meet the teacher night.
- Logan asked if Vivian could apply to the Community Benefit Fund for the new Laptops.

11. Date and Time of next meeting

- Wednesday 16th November 1830 AGM and Ordinary Meeting