

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfroon High School Parent Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfroon High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley, Suzanne Teed (Treasurer), Stephanie Harper (Secretary), Kirsten Pettigrew, Wendy Hamilton, Maureen Meredith, Lynne Seaton, Louise Ferns, Emily Watson (Head Girl 2016-2017), Rory Teed (Head Boy 2016-2017), Elliot Fisher (Depute Head Boy 2016-2017), Elaine Bannatyne, Claire Appelquist, Tracey Patrick

Apologies: Fiona Edward-Smith, Fiona MacVicar, Sheena Muir, Fiona Edward-Smith (Chair)

1. Welcome

In Fiona Edward-Smith's absence Gerry agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous AGM meeting

The minutes from the previous AGM meeting held on 12 May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairperson's Report

In Fiona's absence, Gerry presented her written report to the meeting.

The role of the Parent Council is to:

- Support the school in its work with pupils
- Represent the views of all parents
- Encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
- Report back to all the parents in the school (called the Parent Forum)
- Play a role in the appointment of head teachers and depute headteachers
- Support the school and pupils during school inspections.

Over the last year the parent council have been involved in discussing the following:

- **Academic issues-** Improvements in Balfroon HS's attainment in National Qualifications, monitoring and tracking, co-operative learning, new Advanced Highers, dyslexia working group feedback, Live and Learn workshops feedback amongst others.
- **Non-Academic Issues-** tri-learning for teaching staff, 33 period week, new polytunnel grand opening amongst others.

- **Parents as partners**- monthly drop ins with HT continue, literacy and numeracy event for S1 parents, ongoing consultation
- **Pupil Involvement/feedback**- Has come through the head boy and girl and their contribution to the meetings and through reports regarding pupil questionnaires, for example relating to lunch menus and the buddying system.
- **Fundraising**- This is an ongoing discussion point and a smaller sub group has been established to look at ways of fundraising throughout the year.

Would like to thank everyone for their ongoing commitment to supporting the school and the young people. Thank you to the head teacher for her vision, commitment and effective leadership that has enabled the school to continue to move forward and respond effectively to the needs of our children. This leadership has been particularly valuable during the past few weeks when the pupils, parents and staff have needed guidance and reassurance regarding the issues identified with the school building and the ongoing repair work. Parents have spoken highly of the headteacher and staff team regarding the contingency plans and regular communication during this time.

Thanks to the staff who have attended meetings and contributed to our understanding of current issues and developments. Thank you to the head boy and girl who have provided us with a young person's perspective and have effectively represented their peers to the parent council.

Parent Council Constitution- this was last considered in June 2009. It is perhaps time for a review?

5. Headteacher's Report

➤ General Update

BHS felt very supported by Stirling Council and teaching colleagues throughout Stirling. Bellrock have also been very supportive. The Building work is going well, and it is expected that BHS can return to full operation in August 2016.

➤ Curriculum

The new 31 period timetable has started with adapted times allowing efficiency in the timetable.

The new timetable allows some innovations – S2 will be able to personalise their Creative Electives, Leadership Electives are to be introduced to S3, and there will be a Health and Well Being Period in S6.

➤ National Qualifications

The exams ran exceptionally well thanks to Penny Bath and her team, with the Building works taking place around the exam timetable. As usual, the Senior Leadership Team will telephone all those receiving results and will be available on 10th August.

➤ Parents & Partners

Many thanks for the Parental Support during this time of upheaval.

There followed a discussion regarding how best to engage parents in Learning, in Parent Council activities and how to identify what parents would like / need.

➤ **Staffing**

Stuart Mackay has moved to Dunblane High School, with Dr Claire Appelquist currently acting as DHT for Endrick House. The DHT post will be advertised in August. Gerry Eckersley (Chair) agreed to be available for the meeting and panel for the appointment process.

Mr Finnerty and Ms Cunningham retire this term.

Several new appointments have been made, and 7 probationers will join BHS next term.

P7 Transition

Dr Appelquist spoke to the meeting about the P7 Transition Program. Sadly this program had to be curtailed due to the lack of access to the school, but the new BHS pupils enthusiastically enjoyed the activities provided.

5th/6th Year

Mrs Patrick spoke to the meeting of her role in overseeing the 5th/6th years in the school. The application process for the Prefects and Leadership roles were explained. All 6th Years are considered to have Leadership role within the school and as such have braiding on their Blazers. Those with more specific roles have ties (with house specific colours).

The Parent Council congratulated and welcomed the new Head Boy and Girl, and one of the new Deputies to the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Suzanne reported a current balance of £1448.00. The Annual Accounts are currently due at the end of May and are to be presented at another meeting.

The Race Night raised £600 from a modest turn out. Many thanks to all who gave their time to the evening.

The Parent Council now have a Gaming Licence from Stirling Council (applied for by BHS) that allows the council to run raffles and lotteries such as a 500 Club.

The Parent Council has committed to give £1000 to BHS towards the costs of Show my Homework.

There followed a discussion regarding the issues of reaching, enthusing and involving parents from the satellite villages of Balfron particularly in regard to fundraising. A 500 Club was discussed.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers

The committee wanted to thank Fiona Edward-Smith as retiring chair for all her efforts on behalf the Council, and look forward to her valuable involvement in future meetings.

The committee warmly welcomed Gerry Eckersley as Chairperson, and Maureen Meredith as Vice Chairperson. Suzanne Teed agreed to remain as Treasurer, and Stephanie Harper as Secretary.

Chairperson Gerry Eckersley – Nominated by Suzanne Teed, seconded by Kirsten Pettigrew
Vice Chairperson Maureen Meredith – Nominated Gerry Eckersley, seconded by Suzanne Teed.

8. AOCB

No matters arose.

9. Date of next meetings

The dates of the next meetings of the Balfron Parent Council were provisionally set as follows –

13 September 2016

8 November 2016

17 January 2017

14 March 2017

AGM 9 May 2017