

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 17th January at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfon High School

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Pupil Assessment
4. Anti-Bullying approaches
5. Grants and Fundraising
6. Head teacher's Report
7. Update on school buses
8. AOCB
9. Confirmation of date of next meeting

14 March 2017

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BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2017 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley, Stephanie Harper, Elaine Bannatyne, Tara Williams, Lynne Seaton, Maureen Meredith, Tracey Patrick, Phil Slavin, Rory Teed (Head Boy), Suzanne Teed, Ado Adolphus, Kirsten Pettigrew, Stephanie Harper

Apologies: Amanda Quin, Wendy Robb, Jane Robertson, Mary Clare Brown, Caroline Carrick, Fiona Edward-Smith

1. **Welcome**

Gerry thanked everybody for coming. It was encouraging to see so many new faces returning.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – 1 November 2016**

Minutes were approved without revision. Progress made on many action points – discussed at relevant section of meeting.

3. **Pupil Assessment**

Mr Phil Slavin presented BHS response to the requirement for schools to undertake standardised assessments of pupils' attainment. Standardised Assessment of pupils will take place in S3. The first testing will be in 2018 – current S2's. The tests are being developed at present and will be 'Adaptive Tests' i.e. tests undertaken on a computer in which subsequent questions change as a result of current performance in the tests. Tests will become 'easier' or 'harder' depending on how questions are answered. There will be no 'results' available at the time of testing and no way of comparison by the pupils. Results will be reported by the school in statistical form only, with no individual results identifiable.

All children are currently assessed in a variety of ways throughout their learning in school to monitor progress.

Parents will be emailed with full details.

4. **Anti Bullying Approaches**

In response to a request from the Parent Council, Elaine Bannatyne brought the current Anti-Bullying Policy to the meeting. Last revised in 2012, it was agreed that it was timely to look at and update the policy.

It was acknowledged that the school was quick in recognising bullying does unfortunately occur, and that much is done to build and maintain relationships throughout the school. There are a number of stages within the school when particular emphasis is given to supporting the anti-bullying policy with PSE.

S1 Bounce Back (resilience)
Internet Safety

S2 Cyber Bullying
Relationships
Dealing with Conflict

The Same but Different

S3 Attitudes and Relationships

Other activities include assemblies, where topics of Kindness and Paying it Forward are promoted. Rory Teed described discussions with the Pupil Council where bullying is considered and how to help.

There was a discussion regarding how the school would manage a bullying situation, the strategies followed, the potential involvement of the campus police officer and how parents could help.

As group the parent council considered the questions they might have in knowing how to recognise an issue, how to raise it with the school, and what to expect might be able to happen next.

The Anti-Bullying Policy will be looked at again to ensure it is current and meeting the needs of pupils.

5. Grants and Fundraising

Amanda Quinn sent her apologies but continues to seek out and apply for Grants on behalf of the school. Increasingly money is being offered on a Grant basis for specific projects within schools and communities. As a Parent Council we need to become more aware of how to access these funding opportunities.

Suzanne Teed has called a Fundraising Meeting on 31st January at Balfron High School. Suzanne will shortly have no children in the school. It is important that the Fundraising Group are led and supported by parents of children in the school. The Fundraising needs to be revitalised and with a coherent vision made more relevant to parents in the school.

500 Club Launched but needing focus and advertisement.

2nd Hand Uniform Sale Uniform unclaimed from Lost property has been laundered. To be sorted for resale through stalls at school and local markets.

Candlelight Classics Cooperation between the Primary and High School for a concert in June 2017.

6. Head teacher's report

➤ Learning and Teaching

Always a priority in BHS. There have been Open Doors Days in English, Modern Languages and the Creative Arts. Learning Teaching and Attainment Committee have been updating the schools policy and preparing for the in-service day. There will be a focus on digital learning and high-order thinking strategies.

➤ Curriculum and National Qualifications

BHS has been developing what it can offer in the senior phase of the curriculum. It is now possible to undertake work placements as a 'subject choice' complemented by a suite of short courses in S5/S6. A new National 5 subject Energy will be available for the coming session, and Laboratory Skills is being investigated. A move towards including more vocational qualifications is welcomed.

Future Pathways continues to be very active with focus groups and ambassadors, and continues to look for opportunities in the community. A new collaboration with a local Dementia Awareness group in Killlearn is possible with pupils acting as Befrienders.

➤ **Attainment**

On track / Off track statements are to be followed up.

Preliminary Exams are currently underway. Elaine Bannatyne and Phil Slavin warmly thanked all parents and local community members who have volunteered to invigilate. This frees up considerable teacher time and provides important continuity in the exam hall.

Monthly reports on merits/demerits/attendance/latecoming are planned for parents. Note Latecoming, which has increased, recently, is a new addition.

➤ **Wider Achievements / Events**

All Christmas activities (dances, fayres, school concert) were very successful.

Head Prefects organised and delivered a very successful S5/S6 Mental Health afternoon.

In preparation for the forthcoming China Immersion trip, there are Mandarin lessons open to everyone in school.

In Music, there are opportunities to join a band through a Rural Project, and a Concerto Competition with some parents' involvement.

Interhouse continues to expand and now includes Film Trailers, Banners, and Lip Sync Competitions etc.

S3 monitors have been appointed to take over the Prefect's duties during Study Leave.

➤ **Staffing Update**

Mrs Deborah Gormal from Rosshall Secondary has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Maths and will start 23rd January.

Mrs Patrick has been appointed in a new temporary Depute Head Teacher post with funding from DYW and City Deal, allowing the continuation of her work with Future Pathways.

Mr Davidson and Mr McFarlane have been appointed in permanent pupil support posts.

Mr Lucas has left the school to join Cumbernauld Academy as a Faculty Leader of Technologies. His post at BHS is now advertised.

Liz Mayhew has retired. Her post as Office Manager is not being replaced.

7. Update on School Buses

Thanks to Claire Whyte and Colin Cameron from Balfron Community Council there was a very successful meeting with the bus company and council representatives. Afterschool buses will return to a pick up at BHS on March 6th. This is totally dependent on the buses being able to approach the school and turn. Any suggestions as to how we advertise this fact are welcomed.

No bus is to be made available for Croftamie and Drymen pupils, however an improved DRT system in which pupils are able to book through the school on the morning the service is needed appears to be working well.

New Bus times – 6th March

B10 Balfron to Glasgow:

- 1640hrs from Balfron to operate from the High School at 1641hrs for after school clubs (note that no parking in bus bays to be enforced to allow bus access to the school)

B12/C12 Balfron to Stirling:

- 1710hrs to operate 3 minutes later and operate via the High School for after school clubs (note that no parking in bus bays to be enforced to allow bus access to the school)

8. **AOCB**

Laptops in school – are they allowed?

There has been recurrent discussion regarding devices in school, BYOD Bring Your Own Device. Some schools in Stirlingshire allow devices. One example where one year group was issued with Chromebooks and homework expected to be carried out on Chromebook.

Raises issues – insurance, Internet access in school, Internet access at home – rural broadband speeds are variable and not reliable, interpersonal issues regarding relative value of devices.

This is a current developing topic – perhaps best discussed more fully at a future meeting.

S1 Parent's Evening – When will it be held?

Guidelines only allow one major event in each week timetable - for example writing reports, exams, parents evening. It will take some time to find a suitable slot to hold the S1 Parent Evening as the school heads into a crucial period for senior phase selecting subjects and preparing for national exams.

January has always been problematic for evening events – could S2 parent's evening be in September? This was thought to be too early for teachers to get to know the new S1s.

A new date will be confirmed as soon as possible – in the meantime please approach the Form Class Leader with any concerns.

Training for Parent Councils available

31st January 2017 at St Modans High School 630 – 830pm. Please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Parent Council Network Meeting

To be held 21st February at St Modans High School 7 – 830pm. Samantha Jones had expressed an interest in attending.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 March at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School.