

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfron High School Parent Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Staff Room, Balfron High School

Present: Suzanne Teed (Treasurer); Stephanie Harper; Wendy Hamilton; Mary Clare Brown; Jeremy Pemberton-Piggot; Elaine Bannatyne; Justin Noon; Claire Appelquist;

Apologies: Fiona Edward-Smith; Gerry Eckersley; Kirsten Pettigrew; Fiona MacVicar; Jenny Malyon

In Fiona Edward-Smith's absence Suzanne agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting. She read out report that Fiona had prepared.

1. Minutes of previous AGM meeting

The minutes from the previous AGM meeting held on 13 May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2. Chairperson's report

The role of the Parent Council was outlined – 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 headteachers 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** - Introduction of the new Highers for S5 this session; the school's approach and ongoing work in relation to supporting learners with dyslexia; monitoring and tracking; joint work within the learning community in relation to numeracy; PISA Science participation; revised curriculum rationale; S3 master classes.
- **Non-Academic issues** – The school show was very successful with positive feedback from all; Show My Homework now being utilised fully; partnership with the Community Council through Kieran McHale; new polytunnel.
- **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 the arrangements for exam leave during prelims.
- **Fundraising** – The planned ball was cancelled as was a planned Race Night. Further work is required to establish a fund-raising calendar throughout the year. There is a need for ongoing funds to cover the costs associated with the mini buses.

Fiona would like to thank everyone for their ongoing commitment to supporting the school and the young people. Thank you to the headteacher 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. 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. Thank you also to Kieran McHale who has provided both the views of a young person in Balfron High School and those of the Balfron Community Council.

3. Treasurer's Report

Suzanne reported there is a balance of £807.85. The accounts were approved and seconded by Mary-Clare Brown. Signatures are still in the process of being changed and it was agreed that Fiona Edward-Smith, Suzanne Teed and Gerry Eckersley will be the signatories.

4. Headteacher's Report

- **Learning & Teaching** – Next Cooperative Learning CPL to run on 29 May 2015. All visits to subject areas have been completed and pictures of pupil activities posted on Twitter for parents and will feature in next edition of Balfron Highlights. Principal Teachers have conducted a validation of lesson observation.
- **Curriculum** – Carol Appelquist reported that there have been masterclasses in drama/dance; digital photography; Art 3D; computer design; sand design; aircraft flight; Italian cookery; philosophy; debating; Scottish culture; fitness. All have been very positive and pupils gaining different skills. The classes do fit into the curriculum for literacy and numeracy. Curriculum questionnaire is ready to go out based on the HMI questionnaire. Developing the Young Workforce Update starting in June. Bespoke programme in place for S4/5 pupils with less than 3 N5 courses in partnership with national park, fire services and others to develop employability skills. Polytunnel has been installed and courses to be offered to pupils next session. S4 induction to senior phase due.
- **National Qualifications** – SQA exams underway.
- **Attainment** – Tracking and monitoring review to be undertaken. Hope to be able to report back to parents as to whether their child is on track post-prelim. This would allow early intervention for pupils with difficulties. A more in depth report will be produced after the prelims.
- **Parents and partners** – Bellrock and Balfron High nominated for a partnership award for work together in upgrade of swimming area. Business breakfast highly successful which focussed on employability skills. Partnership with Forth Valley College and it has been suggested that parents can visit the College to see what is on offer. Twitter is regularly updated. Website is to be reviewed updated for the Parent Council.
- **Transition** – P7 transition activities continue and Headteacher has visited all cluster primary schools with S5.
- **Staffing posts appointed** – Secondment for P Slavin to be extended until June 2016, so Acting DHT and PT Science appointments to be extended. New posts available in Technology, Music and Chemistry and pupils and staff are included in the process. Changes to be made for Pupil Support. Probationers next session and there is now a School counsellor in post.
- **Achievements and other information** – Graduation and final fling for S6 has taken place. Various trips are going ahead.

5. Appointment of Office Bearers

All office bearers remain in place for another year. Fiona Edward-Smith (Chair); Gerry Eckersley (Vice-Chair) and Suzanne Teed (Treasurer).

6. AOCB

- Jeremy Pemberton-Piggot raised the issue that there is lack of homework in some years. Consultation is needed with PTs and the policy will be reviewed for homework.
- **Fundraising** – it was agreed that a plan of action is needed for fundraising next session and this will be discussed at the first meeting of 2015/16 session i.e. September.

7. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be held on 8 September 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in Balfron High School