

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Homework Survey Feedback
4. School Trips
5. Update on after school provision of school buses
6. Grants
7. Headteacher's Report
8. AOCB
9. Confirmation of date of next meeting

17 January 2017

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BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1 November 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley, Stephanie Harper, Elaine Bannatyne, Amanda Short, Amanda Quinn, Tara Williams, Wendy Robb, Lynne Seaton, Maureen Meredith, Louise Ferns, Ado Adolphus, Fiona Lyle, Wendy Hamilton, Wendy Hamilton, Heather McArthur, Magnus Nicolson, Claire Whyte, Jane Robertson, Chris Conner, Elliot Fisher (Depute Head Prefect)

Apologies: Katie Gibb, Sheena Muir, Kirsten Pettigrew, Suzanne Teed, Calum Craig

1. **Welcome**

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

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – 30 August 2016**

Minutes were approved without revision. An aim of the Parent Council in previous minutes was to compile a list of FAQs for new and existing parents. SH to collate suggestions requested from parents.

FAQs expected to address things that we learn as we go along. For example, Secret Santa? Extra Present for last day of Christmas Term, Are text books needed? Is it OK to email a teacher, how do Parents' Evenings work? Please think about the things that you've wondered about, or finally got the hang of!

ACTION ALL PARENTS TO SUBMIT TO SH

3. **Homework Survey**

The Head Teacher presented the feedback from the recent homework survey. There was good engagement from families in the survey and the feedback was broadly positive. As parents the PC broke into smaller groups to give their thoughts on 2 particular questions. Q4 Do you think your child engages with the homework given? And Q5 Could the school make it easier for you to support your child with homework? Elaine will consider the responses further.

ACTION EB

4. **School Trips**

Balforn High School offers a number of trips away from school throughout the year. These trips are not funded by the school and are run by willing teachers who take on a big responsibility for the children in their care. The timetable of the trips is therefore not fixed and has to respond to the school timetable changing from year to year.

The general increase in the cost of trips such as the Camps International trip was discussed, and the challenges of managing children's expectations of trips across their time at BHS was recognised.

A list of trips taken by BHS children in the past year was shared. It was striking that there are a large number across all the year groups. Although there are some expensive trips, it was encouraging to see a number of more affordable trips. In addition, there are a huge number of day trips undertaken by staff and children supporting learning across all departments. Day trips in particular rely heavily on minibus hire – one of the biggest expenses that the school has which are not supported by a core ring fenced budget.

In order to try and help families plan for school trips, it was suggested that the expected (but not guaranteed) trips could be made available to parents. The only trip on which the whole school would be expected to attend is the S1 Residential, which supports transition to High School. Other trips are for much smaller groups, often those studying a particular subject in the Senior Phase. If Eligibility Criteria are to be used for a particular trip then it is aimed to have these made clear.

ACTION EB

5. Update on after school provision of buses

The Parent Council has contacted all the local councils, Stirling Council and the Bus Company. There has been some suggestion that the Strathblane bus travelling south will originate at the school rather than the main road. However, recent communication is lacking.

Participation in after school activities has suffered and the viability of clubs is a concern.

The additional issue of children now to pay for the later services seems to have occurred across the Stirlingshire area, with most schools always paying for a later service.

Claire Whyte has represented families who relied upon the now withdrawn C8 Service to Drymen.

The Parent Council feel that the matter is now a wider community issue, and suggest allowing Balfron Community Council to lead.

Claire and Stephanie to meet to discuss further action.

ACTION SH / CW

6. Grants and Fundraising

Amanda Quinn has applied for 3 grants for BHS and the community, 2 of which have been successful.

Aldi have granted £480 for bike helmets and pumps, Bikes are to be sourced.

Tesco have offered £8000, The Public can vote to increase the grant to £10,000 or £12,000. Funds are to be used for the Polytunnel and Community Planting.

Aviva Grants – there is an application in now, which need Public Votes. The grant could be worth £25,000 for Bikes and an Outdoor Gym. Please Vote.

Balfron in Action <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-3051>

School to communicate how to vote to parents.

ACTION EB

The Fundraising Group has been active. A 500 Club will be launched at Grease in November. There are plans for a Uniform Shop/Swop, a fashion show in February and a Music and Food Festival in September. BHS have been approached by Balfron Primary School to share the planning and proceeds from the Candlelight Classics concert.

The Parent Council page on Facebook is currently not set up in the best way. Lynne Seaton has offered her experience.

ACTION LS / AQ

7. Head teacher's report

➤ **Learning and Teaching**

A new How Good is our School 4 is now being used to assess performance. Young people including Elliot Fisher are working on identifying Quality Indicators. Dyslexia Awareness Week will be 7 – 11 November, Blue Ribbons will be available to raise awareness and funds. Tri-learning will be focused on in the coming In Service day.

➤ **Attainment**

Live and Learn workshops encouraging Study Skills and Growth Mindset are timetabled for S4-5 (17th - 28th November)

Supported Study times throughout the school are being collated into a definitive list. Senior Phase tracking reports will be issued shortly after Unit Assessments.

➤ **Parents & Partners**

The Homework review provided good feedback for the school to work with.

Please could the school have any feedback on the School Website to bannatynee01s@glow.sch.uk

There has been a very successful event for S3 to create links with local community groups. Parent Drop in, and Parents Evenings for S3 and S2 coming up in November.

The school is preparing to support greater numbers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and plans an ASD event to inform all members of the school community about ASD on 22 November at 7pm.

➤ **Wider Achievements / Events**

Final of the S3 Youth Philanthropist Initiative in school this week. Halloween and Christmas Discos are planned. Any parents who could kindly help to supervise the dances are always very much appreciated. Parental Involvement has resulted in a higher standard of behaviour and gives the staff confidence to continue offering the dances.

Grease will take place in November.

The Autumn Fayre was poorly attended.

There was a concert given by members of BHS and visitors from Villeneuve d'Asc, and through the Rotary the school will be involved with Euroscola and Young Musician of the Year.

➤ **Staffing Update**

Dr Appelquist has been appointed at Depute Head of Endrick House.

Mr Shields has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Maths at Hyndland. An advert for his replacement is in process. Mr Noon will return in 11 months. Miss Croft has formally left BHS and a PT for PS is being advertised.

At the next meeting, there will be an update on the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures.

8. **AOCB**

There was no further business discussed.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th January at the normal time of 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School.