

## **BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 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. Parking at the High School campus
4. Grants, Fundraising & Treasurer's report
  - (a) Candlelit Classics concert
  - (b) Sale of good condition second hand items of uniform
  - (c) 500 Club
  - (d) Treasurer's report
5. Headteacher's Report
6. Requests and agreement on future programme of topics for Parent Council meetings
7. AOB
8. Confirmation of date of next meeting (AGM)

9 May 2017

#### Balforn Parent Council Contacts

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## **BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2017 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

**Present:** Gerry Eckersley, Stephanie Harper, Elaine Bannatyne, Tara Williams, Lynne Seaton, Maureen Meredith, Tracey Patrick, Kirsten Pettigrew, Wendy Hamilton, Javid Nazir, Heather McArthur, Kirsty McArthur, Wendy Robb, Fiona Lyle, Amanda Quinn, Colin Cameron (Balforn Community Council)

**Apologies:** Suzanne Teed, Ado Adolphus, Sheena Muir, Fred Power, Tracey Conway, Katy Gibb

### **1. Welcome**

Gerry thanked everybody for coming.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting – 17 January 2017**

Minutes were approved without revision. Proposed by Maureen Meredith, Seconded by Lynne Seaton.

### **3. Parking at the High School campus**

Many thanks to Colin Cameron from the Balforn Community Council attending this section of our meeting.

The return of the bus service to the school to collect children from after school activities is dependent upon the turning circle being kept clear to allow the buses to exit. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts from the school and the team at Bellrock, the bus got stuck in the very first week.

This has raised the need for clarification of a number of issues –

- Timing – the nursery parents need the option of parking for short periods in the turning circle entrance
- Turning Circle – what does this actually refer to? The whole length of the marked bus bays? The shorter turning area outside the doors of the High School?
- Distinction between Drop Off and Parking?
- How to communicate with all users of the school – after hours there is considerable community use of the facilities
- Signage – how do we communicate with all users of the school?

It also raised some more general issues –

- Pupil safety
- Disabled Parking Bays – inappropriate use of these bays is making the lives of those who need them difficult
- Parking in neighbouring streets is causing distress to our neighbours

It was agreed that clarification of what was needed by the bus company was a priority. Clear signage and communication with our community of the parking restrictions was the next priority. Clarification of the role that Stirling Council could play was to be sought (EB/CC/SH)

It was encouraging to hear that the DRT arrangements for the children of Croftamie and Drymen were working well.

### 3. Grants and Fundraising

- Candlelit Classics concert  
Plans are underway with Mr Ratcliffe to involve the school's musicians with the professional musicians. Also plans for Dance and Art Gallery and a Silent Auction. Date of 16 June to be finalised.
- Sale of good condition second hand items of uniform  
Stall booked for the 12 April at Killearn's Wee Green Market, Donations sought for good quality pre-loved uniforms. Uniform nights for new S1 to be considered.
- 500 Club  
Club 500 has been rethought. Will run in a membership year from August to June. Current members to be approached and situation explained.
- Treasurer's report  
Suzanne sent her apologies. No movement in the bank account to report.
- Grants  
20 bikes arriving soon. Helmets and pumps included. An application has been made to Greggs for a Grant of £2000 for a sensory garden.

### 4. Head Teacher's Report

#### ➤ National Qualifications

Balfron High School has just received data from a programme called INSIGHT which allows for bench marking within the education system. There is much data to be analysed. All data refers to young people who left BHS in 2016. All young people are compared to a Virtual Comparator (equivalent in Postcode equivalent, Economic background, Gender etc)

There are four broad areas –

#### 1. Literacy and Numeracy

98% achieved a N4 Literacy Qualification

95% achieved a N5 Literacy Qualification

85% achieved a N5 Numeracy Qualification

In all these standards BHS Out-performs our Virtual Comparator, by a considerable margin. There is a focus on ensuring that all young people achieve a Literacy and Numeracy Qualification.

#### 2. Positive Destinations

97% of all young people left school to a Positive Destination. BHS would like this figure to be higher. Tracey Patrick has invested considerable effort in tracking where young people went after BHS last year. The statistic is skewed by what is viewed as a Positive Destination. For

example, a young person with a confirmed university place travelling on a Gap Year is counted as economically inactive – not a positive destination.

### **3. Improving Attainment for All**

INSIGHT looks at the Attainment of the lowest 20%, the middle 60% and the highest 20%. Young people at Balfron High School Outperform our Virtual Comparator at all levels. The current focus is on improving the attainment of the lowest bracket in BHS.

### **4. Attainment vs Deprivation**

In Balfron High School there is no demonstrable Poverty Attainment gap. There is however, a trend over the past three years of boys outperforming girls. Girls are also slightly underperforming their virtual comparators.

This will be looked into more extensively to determine the cause. Are there mental health issues, motivational issues, did girls take the right subjects?

#### ➤ **Attainment**

Tracking letters post prelims have been issued. Targeted children are being followed up. Supported Study is now in full swing, with revision focus in Form Class time.

#### ➤ **Curriculum and National Qualifications**

The timetable for the new Senior Phase is in development, with a number of new courses available. Dance, Engineering Science, Laboratory Science, Cake Craft and NPA Sports Development.

Tracey Patrick presented the Work Experience Plus option for S5 and S6. This is available as one of the four 'columns' of timetable space giving senior pupils the chance to undertake Work Placement, Volunteering activities and develop life and work skills. It is possible to combine units to achieve Level 4,5 and 6 SQA Awards.

Study leave will begin shortly after the Easter break. Those with no external exams will have a program of activity provided within school.

#### ➤ **Parents & Partners**

The S1 Parents Evening was held on the 23 March. An Internet Safety meeting is to be rescheduled. Monthly Drop Ins with Elaine Bannatyne continue – next date is 18<sup>th</sup> May.

#### ➤ **Wider Achievements / Events**

There are a huge range of trips and experiences happening over the next few months. Pi Day (S1), Save a Life in March (S5/6), Ready to Vote, Apprenticeship Week, S6 Graduation, French exchange (S2/3), Alps Trip (S3), Vocal Trip Lockerbie (S1), Ecuador/Galapagos Trip (S4/S5) and Beijing (S5).

#### ➤ **Staffing Update**

Several posts have been advertised for appointments to start in August. Posts include, English, Technologies, Modern Studies and PE

➤ **Transition**

Transition for our new S1's is well underway. Elaine Bannatyne has visited all the primaries. The Deputes, Support for Learning teams and current S1's are now visiting. Co-curricular activities are on-going. This year there will be a 3 day Transition in June – Interhouse Sports Day, then two days on the S1 timetable in school. The new S1 Parents Evening is to be held on the 13 June.

**9. Requests and agreement on future programme of topics for Parent Council meetings**

Cyberbullying – PC Tracey Diamond will deliver a session on Cyber bullying after Easter. Other issues that the PC would like explored include Mental Health, Mindfulness, Diet and Body Image. The Parent Council are always keen to hear from Parents and Carers of children in Balfron High School. Please do contact us with any issue that you would like brought to the council – issues are always discussed in very general terms with no identification of individuals.

**10. AOB**

None raised.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 May at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School. This will be the Parent Council's Annual General Meeting.