

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Staff Room, Balfron High School

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary
5. Head Teacher's Report
6. On-line Parents' Meeting Appointments
7. Proposed changes to the school day – update
8. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) update
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Fundraising
11. AOCB
12. Dates of meetings
19 January 2016
15 March 2016
AGM – 10 May 2016

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 3 November 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Fiona Edward-Smith (Chair); Gerry Eckersley (Vice-Chair); Mary-Clare Brown; Wendy Hamilton; Elaine Bannatyne; Amanda Short; Taylor Craig (Depute Head Girl); Cal Clarke (Depute Head Boy); Stephanie Harper

Apologies: Suzanne Teed; Sheena Muir; Kirsten Pettigrew

1. **Welcome**

Fiona thanked everybody for coming.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – 8 September 2015**

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Need for fundraising outstanding.

4. **Secretary**

Nothing to report. Fiona Edward-Smith and Elaine Bannatyne agreed to forward on all emails and mail to Stephanie for dissemination to the Parent Council.

5. **Headteacher's report**

➤ **Learning and Teaching**

'How Good is our School 4' HGIOS – launched in September, now using new indicators with good results.

A working group on Dyslexia has fed back to staff. A number of initiatives are now in place, for example whiteboards using more suitable backgrounds for visibility.

Tri-Learning is now a focus in the school.

➤ **Attainment**

The Live and Learn workshops have been held in S4 and S5. These courses are very expensive for the school to run (~£2000) but are felt to be very useful for the students.

Jordan Craig and Cal Clarke gave their experience of the workshops.

Supported study has been available since September – details of times to be found in the upcoming Highlights issue.

Two pupils have had outstanding results recognised. Catherine Eckersall achieved 100% in her Higher Modern Studies, and Harry Johnstone achieved the highest mark in Scotland in his Advanced Higher French.

➤ **Parents and Partners**

There has been a combined Literacy and Numeracy event for S1 parents.

The new school website will be launched in January 2016, as the school migrates to a GLOW hosted site. This represents a saving to the school. There will be a Parent Council area on the

new site. New site is currently being populated. Staff email addresses will also change to GLOW addresses.

➤ **Wider Curriculum and Ethos**

A very rich range of additional activities has been occurring in the school. Modern Languages have hosted a day of Languages for Business and a European Day of Languages. A group of children who have suffered a loss have been working on a RSNO project exploring verse and music (Absent Friends).

The Polytunnel has hosted a very successful Grand Opening with lots of local involvement. The school has been visited by a Norwegian Delegation interested in the delivery of the curriculum at BHS.

➤ **Staffing Changes**

Mrs Henderson (Pupil Support) and Mrs McDonald (Art) have moved away from BHS.

➤ **Priority Based Budget**

Next round of PBB is becoming active. Balfron High School has a target of cuts that must be met. This is currently to involve cuts in Support Staff in the school restructuring the Management Team. A proposal to move to a 33 period week (resulting in savings) is still under consultation. The impacts in Balfron high School will be felt by those most in need (in terms of support staff) and those most able (reduction in classes such as Advanced Higher). The Parent Council could consider a response to be given to Stirling Council. The next public meeting is to be held at the school on Tuesday 17th November.

➤ **Update items**

Mrs Short outlined a proposal to introduce **Online Appointments** for parent's evenings. It was felt that the current system allowed for much flexibility and in general worked well. A trial 'evening' will be planned to evaluate the system.

The proposal to change the **school day** to a 33 period week has taken much planning. It would involve 4 slightly shorter days and one slightly longer day. The Class Registration period in the morning is seen as very valuable by staff and is to be retained. However, the bus company are not at present able to provide buses for this changing timetable. BHS may need to keep the current timetable and meet the cost savings required from staffing budgets.

Taylor and Cal gave a Pupil Council update. They are keen to demonstrate to the pupils that their voices are heard and feedback on the Pupil Council progress. Improvements include a new water fountain, requested mirrors in the new changing rooms and better communication regarding the lunch menus. Euan Brownlee and Grace Currie attended a conference on learning, and fed back successful ideas to the school. The Buddy system has been revitalised with more opportunities for S2 and S6 Buddies to socialise with their S1 charges. Thanks to Taylor and Cal for their report.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Access to the bank account has been achieved. There is a possibility of compensation due to the Parent Council.

7. **Fundraising**

Fundraising is desperately needed to support the ICT and transport needs of the pupils. A separate meeting will be organised.

8. **AOCB**

Balfron High school may host the Rotary Young Musician of the Year award.

Following the Halloween Dances hosted by the school, there were a number of pupils who remained in Balfron and behaved in an unsociable manner. Subsequently, the school received complaints. There will be a meeting scheduled to discuss the future of dances at the school.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School.