

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th August 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Updated Parent Council constitution
4. Establishment of a Fundraising sub committee
5. How do we encourage more parents to attend the Parent Council?
6. Balfron Futures Trust
7. Secretary's Report
8. Headteacher's Report
 - (a) School improvement planning
9. Treasurer's Report
10. AOCB
11. Confirmation of dates of future meetings
 - 1 November 2016
 - 17 January 2017
 - 14 March 2017
 - AGM 9 May 2017

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BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 30 August 2016 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfon High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley, Stephanie Harper, Suzanne Teed, Elaine Bannatyne, Amanda Short, Tracey Patrick, Grace Shaw, Claire Appelquist, Amanda Quinn, Tara Williams, Anthonia McGinn, Jenny Townsend, Wendy Robb, Sheena Muir, Tracey Conway, Claudia Duncan, Lynne Seaton, James Taylor, Maureen Meredith, Louise Ferns, Ado Adolphus, Calum Craig, Fiona Lyle, Wendy Hamilton, John Cameron, Samantha Jones, Paul Brogan, Katy Gibb

Apologies: Mary Clare Brown, Fiona Edward Smith, Kirsten Pettigrew, Barbara Nicolson, Fred Power

1. **Welcome**

Gerry thanked everybody for coming and particularly welcome all the newcomers to the Parent Council.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – AGM 10 May 2016**

The Draft minutes of the AGM were reviewed for information only. There were no comments.

3. **Updated Parent Council Constitution**

The proposed changes to the constitution update the practicalities of the way the Parent Council currently operates. The aims of the PC have been suggested to be –

- Provide a voice for parents, in schools and in their local authority, on issues that are important to them and their children
- Help the school to understand how to most effectively involve parents in their children's learning and in the life of the school
- Support the school and headteacher in developing strong home/school partnerships
- Support the school in its development and improvement, and in understanding and making links with the wider community
- Capture the unique and varied skills, interests, knowledge and experience that parents can offer.
- Through the formation and operation of a fund raising sub group, raise funds to enhance school resources

The separation of the activities of a Fundraising group to be separate from the other activities of the PC was felt to be important.

The proposed constitution was approved.

Proposed by Suzanne Teed

Seconded by Samantha Jones

4. **Establishment of Fundraising Committee**

BHS has some logistical problems with the dispersion of families over a wide area, and a recent history of poorly attended events.

The new fundraising group will be tasked with tackling these issues. It is suggested that the Parent Council apply to become achieve charitable status, making grants and assistance possible. We should also consider making fundraising targets and how we spend the money more widely known. Newer members of the council were unaware of the additional costs the school has to meet (for example the minibuses).

Those interested in taking part in the Fundraising group agreed to meet separately.

5. How do we encourage more Parents to attend the Parent Council?

Gerry asked the newer members why they had come and what would encourage them to come back.

Elaine Bannatyne's email had reminded people and encouraged attendance.

It was agreed that a board in the reception giving details of meetings and minutes would be advantageous.

6. Balfroon Future's Trust

Amanda Quinn introduced the Balfroon Futures Trust, whose main aim is to access community grants for activities in Balfroon and the school. For example, the Wild Guy project that discourages local parents from driving their children to school. Amanda encouraged the PC to achieve charitable status allowing collaboration.

7. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

8. Head teacher's report

➤ **Attainment**

Excellent Exam results this year. 40% of pupils in S5 (as % of their S4 Cohort) achieved 5+ Highers for the first time at BHS.

There are a significant number of papers that have been submitted for remarking (49 re-marks requested) after difficult choices made. The role of SQA in the change away from Appeals and the assumption that redress is only available if SQA has been mistaken is perhaps something the PC would like to consider further.

Particular confidence in BHS teaching model of 3+3 (3 Broad general years, 3 examination years) has grown due to the improving results as the cohort progresses through the school.

➤ **Parents as Partners**

UCAS/Apprenticeships evening to be held next week. Show my Homework now streamlined and running well. Parent Pay to be launched for BHS.

Levels and Role of homework might be a topic that the PC would like to come back to at another meeting.

Transport – Mrs Short

The majority of BHS pupils travel by bus. The very recent announcement of the removal of after school services has been a surprise – BHS were not consulted. Afterschool Clubs rely on pupils being able to get home safely.

Parent Council agreed to respond to Stirling Council.

➤ **Learning and Teaching**

The Tri-Learning group will continue under Sheena Boyle's direction. Three members of staff observe and support each other.

➤ **Wider Curriculum – Clare Appelquist**

Current S1 are happy and seem to have settled well. S1 Residential begins 12th September at Ardmay, Lochgoilhead and Ardentinnny.

S4 Work Experience also begins 12th September

The transition to new timetable of 31 period week.

➤ **Future Pathways – Tracey Patrick**

Strong emphasis on Future Pathways at BHS. All 6th Year pupils have a Leadership role in the school, some Prefects have special responsibility for Future Pathways.

120 S6's recently attended UCAS Convention. 31 Aug will be an S6 assembly looking at all pathways from school. 7th August, Parents Information evening regarding pathways.

In recognition of the importance of work experience and volunteering, BHS are building opportunities in the local community. S6 pupils can now choose work experience/volunteering as one of the four subject choices.

All information is available on Future Pathways website, Twitter Feed, Facebook or from Tracey Patrick.

➤ **School Improvement Programme**

At the end of the meeting copies of the SIP were available to read. Comments were invited by Elaine Bannatyne, by annotation/post it, regarding the SIP. PC input was very helpful to the school to identify things that BHS are doing well and those that could be improved.

9. **Treasurer's Report**

Bank balance at £449. £1000 has been given to the school for Show My Homework. Annual Accounts are to be approved.

10. **AOCB**

There has been a clash in the timetabling of Football and Rugby Fixtures of local teams. Mr McQuire and Mr Watson will meet with the coaches to reach a resolution.

Halloween Parties are coming up! Please can we have Parental Involvement in supervising the parties – the staff warmly welcomed Christmas dance supervision last year and revelers' behaviour was much improved.

The Halloween discos are:

Wed 2 Nov (S1/2),

Thurs 3 Nov (S3/4),

Mon 7 Nov (S5/6)

PC will coordinate 4+ parent helpers for each disco.

Please could parents have a listing of the after school clubs? Yes, all will be available and links given on Twitter.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st November in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School.