

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 7 November 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. Fundraising
4. Head Teacher's Report
5. Introduction to new Curricular Model
6. (Meeting Focus – Study Skills) Homework Policy
7. Treasurer's report
8. Awarding Raised Funds
9. 500 Club Draw
10. Confirmation of date of next meeting

16 January 2018

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BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 2017 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Ado Adolphus, Lynne Seaton, Wendy Hamilton, Maureen Meredith, Fiona Lyle, Katy Gibb, Amanda Quinn, Stephanie Harper, Elma Reilly, Valerie Callan, Elaine Bannatyne, Amanda Short, Dougie Scott, Freya Logan (Head Girl)

Apologies: Gerry Eckersley, Vivienne Mackay, Alison Maclachlan

1. **Welcome**

Maureen Meredith chaired the meeting, as Gerry was unable to join us.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – 12 September 2017**

Minutes were approved without revision. Proposed by Lynne Seaton, and seconded by Ado Adolphus.

3. **Homework Policy**

Study Skills will be considered at another time. Thank you to Dougie Scott who attended the meeting to introduce the Homework Policy Review that is currently underway. The policy is being redrafted with the aim of presenting the results in the summer.

There are a number of areas of focus regarding homework.

1. **Quantity** – a review of best practice and research is underway to ensure that educational improvement and attainment is raised by setting homework. Homework needs to be balanced with other extra curricular activities, and the amount set on a weekly basis should reflect the stage of the child. Approximately 10 mins of homework per year of formal education would be expected each school night. This relates to approximately 1 hour for S1 and S2, and 2 hours for S5 and S6.
2. **Parental Engagement** – Balfron High School is using Show my Homework to inform children and parents of homework tasks. About half of all children in the school have accessed SMH, but only an eighth of parents have logged in. Although parents could be using their children's log ins, the aim is to improve parental involvement. This could be discussed at Form Class Leader interviews.
3. **Non-completion of Homework** – SMH can help advise parents of homework completion rates.
4. **Feedback to teachers** – It is important that teachers are made aware of how long homework tasks are actually taking children to complete. Teachers want to make sure that appropriate amounts of homework are set. There is currently a perception that S1-S3 receives too little homework, whilst S4-S6 receives too much. It would be ideal to have a gradual build of homework involvement and self-study from S1 to S6.
5. **Protocol for Missed Deadlines** – needs formulated.
6. **Development of Good Study Skills** – homework encourages the development of good study skills and self-discipline.

A survey to invite parental views is being drafted, the results of which are expected by Easter.

National 5 Study Skills

There followed some discussion about supporting children taking National 5's, their first external exams.

- S4's have attended 'Live and Learn' training in school, focusing on study success
- Form Class Leaders have blank timetables available for pupils to make study plans
- Summary notes and Flashcards are recommended and may be drafted in class
- Scholar – is a very useful resource for Highers and increasingly National 5's
- SQA Guidelines – online resource, giving access to full syllabus of each subject and exam structure

4. Introduction to new Curricular Model

Amanda Short has been developing the new timetable for Balfron High School's new curricular model. The new model will come into effect from June 2018 with the current S1's moving into S2. The major change is that all pupils will take 7 subjects at National 5, going on to 5 subjects at Higher. It is hoped that this model will allow pupils access to more choice in their Higher year.

In summary

S1 remains unchanged as currently working well, and the pupils are happy. It meets the Broad General Education curricular entitlements.

S2 Will change from June 2018. The creative elective will be replaced by a period of music technology and drama for half the year.

S3 Pupils will choose 9 subjects in addition to English and Maths (11 subjects in total). This compares to the 20 subjects that are currently studied in S3. After Christmas, the National Qualifications in all 11 subjects will be started and at the end of S3 pupils will specialise in 7 subjects.

S4 Pupils will choose 5 subjects and English and Maths (7 subjects) to continue studying and prepare for national qualifications.

S5 and S6 will continue unchanged.

The new curricular model ensures that all pupils are offered the breadth of the Broad General Education specified in the curriculum entitlements, while providing some specialisation in S3. Almost all pupils will have experienced 3rd level in all available subjects in S2. This breadth is continued into S3 giving pupils more experience of a subject at National 5 level before committing to National Qualifications in S4. Seven subjects at National 5 will allow for greater choice when choosing (normally 5) subjects at the Higher level in S5.

5. Fundraising

There is a Family Christmas Quiz planned for the 15th December. The Insurance documents from this year's SPTC membership need to be tracked down (SH).

The Clothing Company will be at Killearn Country Market this month.

Amanda Quinn has applied for more grants. A grant from Aldi has been applied for Frisbee Golf as a community sport.

The 500 Club now has 142 members.

How can we advertise that the High School is in need of Funds? Could Parents in employment with big employers access funds? It was urged upon the members of the Parent Council to ask local groups and events if funding might be available.

6. Head teacher's report

➤ Learning and Teaching

Open days in Health and Science. Focus on Making Thinking Visible – 2 members of staff in each department and the Head Prefects have received training.

➤ Study Skills

Live and Learn workshops for S4 – motivation, learning and study skills

Supported Study times to be made available to parents

S4 –S6 – study resources available in Form Class

Study resources available on Glow

➤ Curriculum

New Curricular Model – see item 4

Homework review – see item 2

Show my Homework Parental Involvement – see item 2

Next parent Drop in 9th November

S2 Parent's Evening 29th November

➤ Wider Achievements / Events

These recognise the wider involvement (i.e. not core curricular achievements) across all year groups

S1 Micro Tyco

S1 Numeracy Ninjas

S1 Accelerated Reader – for whole year groups

Halloween and Christmas Discos

Rotary – Euroscola and Young Musician of the Year

Rural Music Project

➤ Staffing Update

Principal Teacher of Maths and Campsie 2 to be appointed on 28th November

A Temporary English post is now advertised

Pupil Equity Fund has made possible 0.2 teacher targeted mentoring (0.4 improvement science role) and one additional day of a counsellor.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Bank Balance stands at £2879.12.

It is thought that the new signatories are approved, and the chequebook is to be dropped into school by Suzanne Teed.

8. Awarding Raised Funds

The Parent Council received applications from staff.

Netball Team Kit	PE	£300		
Maths Workout Licence	Maths	£110 (1 yr)	£275 (3yrs)	£440 (5yrs)
Biography books	Library	£250		
Cakecraft National 5	Home Ec.	£100		
Speaking practice with Native Speaker	Mod. Lang.	£200		
Total		£960	(£925)	(£1090)

It was decided that we could support all applications, although Maths would initially be supported for one year with a view to maintaining support next year.

£1500 would be passed to the school. £960 to be distributed to the departments above, and £540 to be put towards the minibuses.

Many thanks to the fundraising team for all their hard work.

9. Club 500 Draw

A Random Number Generator was used to select the winner for this meeting.

Many thanks to Freya Logan for doing the honours and the winner was **Graham Cruikshanks**.
Congratulations!

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfour High School.