

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 8 September 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. Membership update
5. Secretary
6. Head Teacher's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Fundraising
9. AOCB
10. Dates of meetings 10 November 2015 – rescheduled 3 November 2015
 19 January 2016
 15 March 2016
 AGM – 10 May 2016

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 8 September 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Community Meetings Room, Balfroon High School

Present: Fiona Edward-Smith (Chair); Gerry Eckersley (Vice-Chair); Mary-Clare Brown; Andy Thompson; Sheena Muir; Anthonia Meginn; Jill French; Wendy Hamilton; Elaine Bannatyne; Justin Noon; Erin Sanderson (Head Girl); Ciaron Hamilton Head Boy); Stephanie Harper

Apologies: Fiona McVicar; Kirsten Pettigrew

1. **Welcome**

Fiona thanked everybody for coming and welcomed new members to the Parent Council.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting – 12 May 2015**

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed.

3. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising from previous minutes.

4. **Membership Update**

Warm welcome extended to new members of the Parent Council. Introductions made by all and a list of contact details updated for the new school session.

5. **Secretary**

Maureen McNee's long contribution to the Parent Council as secretary was acknowledged. Arrangements made to show our thanks and appreciation (FE-S). Stephanie Harper agreed to act as Secretary for this session. To be assisted by Mary-Clare Brown when necessary.

6. **Headteacher's report**

➤ **Attainment**

Elaine was very pleased to share the significant improvement in Balfroon High School's attainment in the National Qualifications sat in May 2015. A high number of young people achieved highly in National 5's, Highers and Advanced Highers. There were also a number of notable achievements for younger pupils sitting assessments in Languages and Music. The methodology that is used to compare and track the attainment of pupils was clearly explained.

Balfroon High School continues to improve standards and achievement across the board in comparison to schools in Stirlingshire and in comparison to our Virtual Comparator.

➤ **Parents and Partners**

The results from the surveys undertaken in June by parents and pupils were examined in detail. Surveys were returned by parents of approximately 20% of families attending BHS. Generally the results were positively supporting the actions of the school. Where concerns were raised these have been addressed personally. Show My Homework is being updated for the new session – it is not up and running yet.

Monthly Drop-ins with Elaine Bannatyne continue, and Parent Zone on the school website has information regarding school meetings and letters home.

The school Twitter account (@Balfronhigh) is very active. All the daily tannoy announcements and happenings in the school are posted here.

➤ **Learning and Teaching**

The staff in the school practice a co-operative learning approach, Tri-Learning. Members of staff observe on other lessons within their departments. This leads in to discussions relating to best practice and ensures that all staff are encouraged to improve continually (CPD) Justin Noon explained how this works in the Maths Department detailing the benefits to staff.

➤ **Curriculum**

S1 residential is about to depart for 2015 (wb 14th Sep). S4 Work Experience is scheduled for the same week (wb 14th Sep).

The school is currently reviewing the school day and curriculum with a view to moving to a 33 period week in June 2016. The availability of the buses is crucial in this process. A new 33 period week will see days of differing lengths and will unfortunately mean a reduction in teaching staff. Elaine Bannatyne is keen to meet with a group of parents to obtain views on this process.

➤ **National Qualifications**

The new Advanced Highers are now being taught from this session.

The online resource, Highers in a Nutshell is recommended to parents as a good source of information. <http://npfs.org.uk/highers-in-a-nutshell>

Following the exams in June, there are a number of re-calculations and remarks awaited.

7. Treasurer's Report

There are on-going issues with access and management of the bank account. New forms have been completed with new signatories. Cheques unsuccessfully presented by the school were returned.

8. Fundraising

The need for Fundraising by the Balfron High School community was discussed. There is some urgency for the parents and community of the school to appreciate the need for support of the school's aims. Our rural location presents the school with additional costs not met by school budgets.

Some discussion centred on the type and form of fundraising that could be achieved. A separate group of members of the council agreed to meet at a separate time to discuss our options.

9. AOCB

No other matters raised.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Staff Room, Balfron High School. Please note this is a rescheduled meeting from 10 November 2015.