

**BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
Annual General Meeting**

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 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 AGM meeting (Held 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Appointment of Office Bearers
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
5. Chairperson's Report
6. Headteacher's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. AOCB
9. Dates of meetings                      Draft
  - 5 September 2017
  - 7 November 2017
  - 16 January 2018
  - 13 March 2018
  - AGM – 8 May 2018

## BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

**Present:** Gerry Eckersley, Stephanie Harper, Elaine Bannatyne, Tara Williams, Lynne Seaton, Maureen Meredith, Tracey Patrick, Amanda Quinn, Katy Gibb, Fiona Lyle, Grace Shaw

**Apologies:** Wendy Hamilton, Suzanne Teed

### 1. **Welcome**

Gerry offered a warm welcome to all, and thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

### 2. **Minutes of previous AGM held on 21 June 2016**

Minutes of last AGM were approved without comment. Proposed by GE, Seconded by LS.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

### 4. **Appointment of Office Bearers**

In accordance with our constitution, invitations had been extended to all parents and carers to consider standing for a role on the Parent Council.

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Chair – Gerry Eckersley       | Proposed SH / Seconded LS |
| • Vice-Chair – Maureen Meredith | Proposed GE / Seconded LS |
| • Treasurer – Lynne Seaton      | Proposed SH / Seconded GE |
| • Secretary – Stephanie Harper  | Proposed MM/ Seconded GE  |

In addition to these roles, the council would like to appoint a Fundraising Coordinator. Tara Williams has kindly agreed to act in this role.

### 5. **Chairperson's Report**

It has been a productive year for the Parent Council. We have seen an increase in the numbers attending our meetings, and a greater representation of the villages that make our Balfron High School Community. This is something that we would like to build upon.

We have updated our constitution.

We have discussed a range of non-academic issues, many of which have been very informative, such as the approach that BHS is taking with the reporting of achievement. Our views have been responded to by the school, and in response

school practices have been changed. For example, parents are now emailed in advance of a school trip being announced to children in school.

The Parent Council is keen to support the staff of Balfron High School and have continued to offer help at the school dances.

We have been delighted to have the Senior Prefect team present at meetings and have valued their input.

In terms of fundraising we are aware that it is crucial to generate income to support the varied range of activities that are offered by Balfron High School without any additional core-funding. Progress is now being made with a Club 500, a Classics concert and Uniform Sales. Amanda Quinn has generated substantial funds through Grant Applications. We hope 2017/18 will be a successful year for fundraising.

We have made the activities of the parent council more visible with a new Facebook and Twitter presence, and hope to increase the dialogue with the parents and carers we represent.

Future topics that we would like to focus on the coming year, include –

- IT, Bring your own device
- Internet Safety
- Study Skills
- Body Image
- Vaping

Gerry thanked Elaine for all her input to the Parent Council, in particular for her approachability and her leadership. Thanks were also made to all the members of staff who have attended our meetings for their input and support, and special thanks to our Senior Prefects for their involvement. We wish them every success as they leave Balfron High School.

## **6. Headteacher's Report**

### **Building/Grounds**

The school returned to being fully operational for the start of the session following structural issues. The support of colleagues from Stirling Schools, the Council and Bellrock was invaluable in minimising impact on learning and the smooth running of exams. Parents and Carers were extremely supportive and understanding during this time.

Funding has been secured to have a compact athletics track put on the pitches. This will include a 5 lane 100m straight, a long jump pit and a throwing area. This work is currently ongoing. The school is grateful to be supported by Balfron 10K who are providing funding for resources to support the track.

### **SQA Results**

The SQA results from August 2016 showed a strong increase in attainment overall for S4 and S5 pupils at N5 and Higher with 62% of S4 gaining 5+ N5s and 40% of S5 gaining 5 Highers. 96% of all leavers (S4-6) left with literacy and numeracy at N4 and 85% at N5. This performance is significantly greater than the national average and our virtual comparator. Work led by PTs English and Maths and Lead Learners in Literacy and Numeracy continues to ensure this remains an improving picture. 2017 results are due to pupils on 8<sup>th</sup> August. As in previous years, the Leadership team will be in school and available to support pupils in re-coursing on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Curriculum**

The curriculum was reviewed and updated for S3 pupils who have had Developing the Young Workforce and sports Leadership added to their core BGE curriculum. Observations and focus group feedback has shown these to have had a positive impact in terms of developing leadership and skills for work.

S2 pupils had the opportunity to opt into Creative Electives for the first time this session. This allowed us to include dance and drama into the curriculum.

In the Senior Phase, the addition of N5 Energy provided a more accessible alternative to Physics. The quality of pupil work has been commended during verification and general observations from senior staff.

Pupils have benefited from links with Forth Valley College where pupils have accessed courses in Child Care, Creative Industries, H Psychology, Construction and Foundation apprenticeships.

Staff have been developing new courses for inclusion in 2017-18. These include N5 dance, N5 Drama, N5 Laboratory Science, N5 Cake Craft, Higher Sports Development and Work Experience Plus. These have been identified to offer breadth and access to a wider range of our learners.

A Health and Wellbeing Period was added to the S5/6 curriculum. This has allowed pupils to access PE in the Senior Phase or an alternative activity designed to support their mental health and general wellbeing.

Changes to the school day timings were implemented to allow greater efficiency in the timetable.

### **General Achievements**

We work hard to recognise the achievements of our young people in and out of school. A second internationalist board was installed and is filling up with names of young people who have represented their country. The PE corridor is filled with internationalist kits (shirts/vests etc) in recognition of the pupils who have achieved them. Considerable sporting success has been recorded and celebrated in athletics, track cycling, futsal, tae kwon do, rowing, karate, judo, cross-country mountain

biking, equestrian vaulting, netball, rugby, Kickboxing, golf and much more. Our S1 team are the national Giant Heptathlon Champions and were presented with their award by Andy Butchart.

Some of the many examples of pupil achievements this year include our team from Hospitality who were runners up in the national Aqua-Culture competition. Our pupils made it to the national finals of Junk Kouture at the SECC. Our ski team medalled in West of Scotland novice and open competitions and went on to the Scottish Schools finals. Both girls and boys rugby teams made it to Scottish Power Warriors School finals. S6 Kirsty Maitland made it to the finals of ARTiculate at Stirling University. Joanna Borland won a place on the Rotary Euroscola trip to Strasbourg representing Scotland at the European Parliament. Laura McKenzie gained a place in Strathclyde University's 'Engineering the World for Girls'

For the first time in partnership with Rotary, we hosted Young Musician of the Year. Harriet Patterson made it through to the district heats and Lucy Black won the vocal category. The number of musicians in the orchestra and bands and groups has increased this session.

### **Extra-curricular**

A stand out performance of the year was the school show, Grease with almost one third of the school participating and contributing to its success.

The number of extra-curricular activities continues to increase with the welcome addition of a pipe band and a group keen to represent the school in an equestrian team.

Parental support with Halloween and Christmas dances has been much appreciated. In its second year a positive feature of home school partnership.

A small team has participated in a number of Scottish Disability Sport events this session.

### **Transport**

Following changes to the running of the later bus service, significant support from the parent council helped influence a decision to reinstate two of the later services. A DRT service is available for pupils on the Drymen route. This is coordinated daily at the school reception along with the Fintry DRT.

### **Staffing**

Claire Appelquist was appointed to DHT Endrick House. Thanks to Stephanie Harper for her support with this appointment. It was great to have representation from pupils, staff and the parent body involved in the process.

Deborah Gormal was appointed to acting PT Maths and Campsie 2. This position has been advertised as a permanent post.

### **Fundraising**

With the support of the Parent Council fundraising applications brought in approx. £13,000. The Balfron Development Trust supported the purchase of twenty bikes. An Aldi grant allowed us to purchase helmets and pumps. Funding from Greenspace has supported work in our polytunnel and is allowing us to develop our orchard and create an outdoor sensory area.

A successful bid to Education Scotland allowed us to purchase the Accelerated Reader resource and targeted young people have been benefiting from the programme. The Snapdragon foundation supported the purchase of Manga Mania books for the library as well as upgrading our lighting desk for the school show. A group of S4 pupils won a £3000 grant from Cycling Scotland to increase participation in the activity on campus.

The mini bus costs were approx. £13,000 this session. There has been discussion around fundraising to support these costs.

### **Pupil Equity Fund**

The school has been allocated £15,000 for the pupil equity fund. We are keen to invest this money into resource to support young people with additional support needs.

Many thanks to the Parent Council for their support throughout the year.

### **Additionally – Positive Destinations of School Leavers**

DHT Tracey Patrick explained that Balfron High School is required to give information to Skills Development Scotland regarding the % of pupils leaving school to a “positive destination”. This is measure by which the school is measured. A positive destination may be further education, employment or apprenticeships. There is considerable effort in S6 on preparing pupils for the world outside school and BHS scores highly in this measure. In 2016, 96.93% school leavers went on to a positive destination. However, there is concern about this measure, as it does not recognise a “Gap Year” as a Positive Destination if the young person is volunteering and is not economically active. There are a number of young people embarking on gap years this summer, and even if they have university places confirmed for 2018, for the purposes of this statistic they will not have left to a positive destination. This is a cause for concern and discussions are taking place with Skills Development Scotland.

## **7. Treasurer’s Report**

Suzanne unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting, but was warmly thanked for all her input as treasurer over the past three years.

Lynne Seaton as the new treasurer presented accounts to the meeting showing little movement of monies, and a current bank balance of £881.89

### **Bank Account**

There continue to be problems with the bank account management. Lynne will continue to work with the Bank of Scotland to organise a fully functioning account.

The signatories for the bank account are agreed to be –

Gerry Eckersley, Chair  
Lynne Seaton, Treasurer  
Tara Williams, Fundraising Coordinator

Cheques are to be signed by two of any three of the signatories. Internet Banking Access is to be authorised for Lynne Seaton as Treasurer.

### **Fundraising**

**Club 500** - The Club 500 has been re-launched with a website online application process <https://bhspc500club.wixsite.com/mysite>

**Uniform Sales** - Second Hand Uniform in good condition would be welcomed by the Parent Council. The first stall was very well received.

## **8. AOCB**

### **Candlelit Classics**

Katy Gibb is liaising with Balfron Primary School to present the Candlelit Classics evening. Plans are going well.

Five volunteers agreed to help on the night.

Liability Insurance was needed. (Subsequently found to be offered as part of our membership with the SPTC).

Arrangements needed to be made with the Bellrock Staff to keep the building open later.

### **Club 500 – Inaugural Draw**

Mr David Bell was the winner of £100 in the first draw of the Club 500.

## **9. Dates of Next Meetings 2017 / 18**

5 September 2017  
7 November 2017  
16 January 2018  
13 March 2018  
AGM – 8 May 2018