

# DRAFT MINUTES

## BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

### A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Report from Stirlingshire Parent Council Sharing Session
4. Fundraising
5. Head teacher's Report
6. Meeting Focus – - Body Image / Bullying
7. 6<sup>th</sup> Year attendance
8. Treasurer's report
9. 500 Club Draw
10. Preparation for AGM – Positions Open
11. Confirmation of date of next meeting

8 May 2018 Annual General Meeting

#### Balforn Parent Council Contacts

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## BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 13 March 2018 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

**Present:** Gerry Eckersley, Katie Gibb, Wendy Hamilton, Stephanie Harper, Fiona Lyle, Maureen Meredith, Wendy Robb, Lynne Seaton, Hannah Mackie, Marjorie Torrance, Tracey Patrick, Elaine Bannatyne

**Apologies:** Tara Williams, Amanda Quinn, Head Prefects

### 1. Welcome

Gerry opened the meeting with a particular welcome to our new members Hannah and Majorie. Our Head Prefects were unable to join us, and the PC asked for our thanks and appreciation to be passed on to them for all their work this year.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting – 7 November 2017

Minutes were approved without revision. Proposed by Lynne Seaton, and seconded by Fiona Lyle.

### 3. Report from Stirlingshire Parent Council Sharing Session

Katie Gibb attended this meeting on behalf of BHS Parent Council. Dunblane, Wallace and St Modan's High Schools were represented.

It was initially thought the meeting would focus on fundraising issues, but it turned out to be more general.

During the discussion, it became clear that BHS Parent Council are in a good position. We are well supported by the school; we are well run; we have 3 to 4 times the number of members regularly attending meetings and we are able to run fundraising events. This is not the case in our neighbouring schools.

There was much discussion around school dinners. As the first PFI school in Stirlingshire BHS has a good relationship with Bellrock who maintain the school and provide services such as school dinners which are well regarded. Our schools in Stirlingshire have school dinners provided by Stirling Council which are not as high quality.

In general, it was apparent that Balforn High School and the Parent Council have a good relationship, which has many positive attributes. There will be ongoing meetings of the Parent Councils.

Thanks to Katie who braved the weather to represent the PC at the meeting.

### 4. Fundraising

Katie reported to the meeting.

#### 4.1 BHS Clothing Company

The Clothing Company plan to be present at the New S1 Transition days at school – 12, 13,14 June, and at the Family Ceilidh (15<sup>th</sup> June).

There is a suggestion to have a stall in the Community Meeting Room on occasional Saturday mornings throughout the year.

#### **4.2 Candlelit Classics**

This event has been suspended for the time being. It is planned to do something similar in the winter.

#### **4.3 500 Club**

An email will be sent to all Number Holders to encourage renewal for next year. The Club 500 will be promoted at the Transition days and the Spring Concert.

#### **4.4 Raffle at Spring Concert**

A Raffle will be held at the Spring Concert. All donated Prizes would be very gratefully received.

#### **4.5 Family Ceilidh**

There is to be a Family Ceilidh – 15<sup>th</sup> June welcoming new families to the Balfron High Community.

#### **4.6 Transition Evening**

Maureen Meredith will introduce the Parent Council at this evening event for new S1 Parents.

#### **4.7 Silent Auction**

There will be an Online Silent Auction at Christmas – no event.

### **5. Head teacher's report**

#### **➤ National Qualifications**

##### **Insight Data**

BHS uses a tool called Insight to analyse exam achievements. This is updated in February and the school now has data for 2017.

This data was presented in some depth. BHS 's aims are to know children well; to focus on target groups such as ASN, Poverty and Young Carers and to track the aspirations of young people carefully to make sure they are on the right pathway.

In general, the Insight data shows –

In S4 more than a third of pupils have ASN. This has a huge impact on exam organisation. This is much higher than similar schools (where 15 – 20% have ASN) and may be due to staff being skilled at identifying needs and/or parents being good at questioning provision and supporting their children.

Insight Data compares BHS with a Virtual Comparator (VC), and looks at all school leavers from S4 – S6 and their achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. In 2017 this was 169 pupils.

Balfron High School is doing well and outperforms the VC in almost every measure.

In Literacy, all pupils leaving in S5 gained an N4 qualification and 90% left with an N5 (Nat 5) qualification. 10 pupils left S5 with an N6 qualification (N6 = Higher). All leavers with ASN outperformed the VC. All Leavers in the middle 40% by deprivation gained N4&N5 literacy, but only 78% of the least deprived leavers gained an N5.

In Numeracy, 81% of pupils leaving in S5 gained an N4 qualification, and 71% gained an N5 qualification. The aspiration is to get all pupils through an N4 if possible.

In S5, all leavers who are boys achieved Nat 5, and 38% achieved Higher. 54% of girls leaving achieved Nat 5, none achieved Higher. Both outperformed the VC.

At BHS, many pupils continue into 6<sup>th</sup> year and are not included in these figures examining school leavers.

**Study Leave** begins 27 April (S6) and 1 May (S4 and S5).

National 5 **exam length** has increased by 20% to compensate for the reduction in testing throughout the year. This will mean some very long exams for those with ASN.

➤ **Curriculum and National Qualifications**

New senior phase courses introduced

➤ **Attainment**

On Track / Off Track now available.

Supported Study continues to be available but uptake is poor. It was suggested that more directed sessions might be helpful.

➤ **Staffing Update**

English – There are now supply teachers in post until the return of permanent staff in April for Ms McKeown and August for Mr Blair.

Maths – One teacher is away on long term sick. The position is now covered.

➤ **Stirling University Students in BHS**

There are a number of student teachers in school. Katy Gibb and Stephanie Harper have agreed to represent the Parent Council on a morning of carousel interview stations for the students on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## 6. Body Image / Bullying

To investigate the extent of Body Image as an issue, Elaine Bannatyne met with a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> year girls – half way through their time at Balfron High School.

It appears that there is significant pressure on girls to not be seen eating in S1 and S2. This is of concern.

The school will be working with the NHS and other professionals to investigate this further, and to develop ways in which the issue can be resolved. It is acknowledged that this may also be an issue for younger boys in the school.

With respect to Bullying, there have been some families approaching council members with concerns about bullying behaviour in Balfron High School. Some families have approached the Parent Council relating instances of children being isolated and ostracised by other pupils in school and on school trips. Elaine Bannatyne encourages all families to bring concerns to the school and emphasised that BHS is a restorative school and aims to resolve all differences between individuals. The Anti-Bullying Policy is scheduled to be revised in next year's session.

Addition – Since the Parent Council meeting parents and carers have been invited to a workshop provided by Respect Me, Scotland's anti-bullying service being held in Stirling on the 26 April 2018.

## 7. 6<sup>th</sup> Year Attendance

Anecdotally there appears to be a greater than normal number of young people leaving school before the end of 6<sup>th</sup> Year. Tracey Patrick detailed the destinations of the 18 6<sup>th</sup> Year leavers and showed the majority to be in employment.

There was some discussion of the challenges of keeping 6<sup>th</sup> years engaged in school, and clarification that it is not the school policy to encourage pupils to leave early.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance is £1563.00.

The school are very grateful for a donation from the Killearn Fireworks of £900 to be used to support the S1 Residential.

## 9. Club 500 Draw

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

The winner was **Fiona MacVicar, Number 83**. Congratulations on winning £100!

## 10. Preparation for the AGM

Our next meeting will be the AGM.

Maureen Meredith and Stephanie Harper will be standing down leaving the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary open. Gerry Eckersley has been Vice Chair and Chair for 4 years and would be happy to allow someone to step forward, but will remain as Chair if necessary.

**11. Date of next meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Balfron High School Parent Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.