

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Monday 22 January at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School (Rescheduled from 16th January)

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Meeting Focus - Safety Online Fundraising
4. Vaping
5. Fundraising
6. Head Teacher's Report
7. Treasurer's report
8. 500 Club Draw
9. Confirmation of date of next meeting

13 March 2018

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BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 22 January 2018 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School (Rescheduled from 16 January 2018)

Present: Lynne Seaton, Wendy Hamilton, Fiona Lyle, Stephanie Harper, DHT Amanda Short, Wendy Robb, PC Tracy Diamond, Gerry Eckersley, Tara Williams

Apologies: Maureen Meredith, Elaine Bannatyne, Katy Gibb

1. **Welcome**

Gerry thanked all for braving the weather to attend, and particularly welcomed PC Tracy Diamond to the meeting. Many thanks to DHT Amanda Short standing in for Elaine Bannatyne.

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

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

3. **Meeting Focus - Safety Online**

PC Tracy Diamond has a large presence in the school and works with the BHS Staff to educate and advise our young people about their safety online.

Online Safety workshops are delivered throughout the school, with PC Diamond currently working with all S1 classes. There is a current focus on Social Media use, and a demonstration on how easy it is to lie online. Who else is lying to you?

Senior Pupils have been trained as anti-bullying ambassadors along with S3 pupils with the Diana Trust. Younger pupils can be more receptive to information given by older pupils rather than adults. The Senior Pupils will be delivering this training after the prelims.

In June, P7's who will be the new S1's will be invited to school for the P7 induction. It is hoped to offer them and their parents relevant training in online safety.

It is important for parents and carers to Talk to their children, to Explain the Risks and to Explain the Access that they are giving possible strangers to their personal information.

PC Diamond focused on **Grooming**.

The Parent Council were shown an Award winning film made by Leicester Police, detailing the last two weeks of the life of a young girl who was groomed on social media.

<https://leics.police.uk/categories/kayleighs-love-story-film>

This graphic film was very hard hitting.

There was discussion about how we protect the young people of BHS and give them the confidence and skills to make good decisions about how they conduct themselves online, both at

school and in their lives beyond school. Boys and Girls are equally vulnerable to grooming at times of change and insecurity in their lives.

The film is only suitable to be shown to those aged 15 and above without prior consent and discussion with their parents. There was discussion regarding the age at which such information should be available to children in the school.

PC Diamond drew our attention to the wide range of information and advice available online for parents and carers for help and advice.

The Parent Council would like to thank PC Tracy Diamond for coming along to the meeting and providing such valuable information, and for her care of the children of Balfron High School.

4. Vaping

There appears to be a massive increase in the number of young people who are vaping.

Amanda Short spoke to the meeting about vaping in BHS. There have been high numbers of boys using vapes, particularly in the toilets - known as 'Hot Boxing'. Vaping is not tolerated by the school and, like smoking, is not allowed on the school grounds.

Legally, you need to be 18 to buy a vape. Vape liquids are sweet, often flavoured and most contain nicotine. Young people who vape often have never smoked cigarettes and are attracted to vaping.

It is not known what the long term effects of vaping might be, although it is likely to be less damaging than smoking cigarettes. There are a number of additives in vape liquid which may cause unknown damage. The following video details some concerns.

<http://headsup.scholastic.com/students/video-electronic-cigarettes>

Balfron High School are currently identifying appropriate materials for use in PSE to educate our young people to make good choices.

5. Fundraising

5.1 BHS Clothing Company

We are very grateful for all the donations that have been made to the Parent Council. Amanda Short has more in school - to be collected.

The last stall at the Killearn Country Market in Killearn made £80. The Killearn Country Market has been discontinued.

New venues needed - Parent's Evenings? New S1 Uniform Evenings, S1 Induction Parents Evening in June, events in school, school is open day after results before new school year (Results 8 Aug 2018, school open 9 Aug), Spring Concert (27 March)

New Helpers needed

School Leavers 2018 Could we encourage leavers to donate blazers as they leave? Box in the atrium or reception?

5.2 Candlelit Classics

Planned for this year. Things to build on from last year.

- make more cost effective, make economies on items such as tablecloths
- silent auction wasn't as effective as it has been. Too specific? Not enough time?
- missing performers from the programme. Audience missed the community choir and the younger school children

5.3 Festive Family Quiz

Cancelled due to very poor ticket sales. No money was lost as Quiz master generously waived his fee.

- Quiz possibly better directed at younger children. It was suggested to hold family quiz as an event to welcome new families to the BHS community in September.
- More help is needed to publicise events
- Suggested emails to Primary Schools

The Raffle was held at the school's Christmas concert instead, raising £240. £100 was donated to the Music Department in appreciation.

5.4 The next meeting of the Fundraisers is to be arranged.

5.5 Fundraising in the Feeder Villages

The profile of Balfron High School as part of the community of the feeder villages needs to be raised. It is realised that the villages are struggling with their own fundraising activities, but it would be helpful if we could approach any groups that might have funds to distribute.

Drymen Show? possibly have a stall

Kippen Street Fayre?

6. Head teacher's report - delivered by Amanda Short

➤ Learning and Teaching

Open Doors days complete in Modern Languages, Science, Maths, Creative Arts and Health. These days are now regular events, are not seen as stressful by staff and are not 'show days'. Staff are genuinely Friendly Critics and supportive. Standard of teaching and learning is very high.

Making thinking visible is a continuous focus.

➤ Curriculum and National Qualifications

Continue to develop the vocational offer for the senior phase, with skills for work courses included.

Current S2 are choosing course choices currently - new model of curriculum
Current S3 will be doing 6 NQ's, current S2 will eventually take 7 NQ's
Learning Pathways - based on previous pupil's experience are to be made available to help with Course Choice

➤ **Attainment**

On Track / Off Track to be made available after prelims
Prelims are underway despite the weather. Many thanks for all the help from parents who invigilate.
Supported Study continues to be available - some sessions more popular than others

➤ **Wider curriculum and ethos**

Nuture focus at in-service day for the pastoral team and a member of staff from each learning and teaching team
Christmas dances and activities were all successful and well attended
Head Prefects worked with Mr Macquarrie to deliver exam preparation workshops before the holiday
S3 Bullying ambassadors have been working with the Head Prefects, and plan to help with the PSE programmes in school (Diana Trust)
Interhouse continues to expand beyond sporting activities. A new Triathlon event will take place to raise awareness of SUDEP - The Owen Britton Interhouse Triathlon.
S3 monitors are in place during Study Leave.

➤ **Staffing Update**

English - Mrs Short and Colleagues are interviewing candidates in order to add successful applicants to the council Supply List of English Teachers. This will enable a Supply English teacher to join the school asap. The post needs to be covered until the return of permanent staff in April for Ms Mckeown and August for Mr Blair.

Maths - A new temporary Maths teacher, Mr Ahmed is joining the school in February. New permanent post to be advertised in the spring.

Business - A supply teacher has been appointed, Miss Quilter.

7. Treasurer's Report

After approximately £1500 was donated to the school, and a working balance of £500 reserved for the 500 Club, the Parent Council have £1500 of available funds.

Lynne now holds the chequebook.

8. Club 500 Draw

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

The winner was **Donna Owens, Number 52**. Congratulations on winning £100!

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th March at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School.