



BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th September 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 - March Minutes
3. Introduction of Head Prefects
4. Fundraising Update
5. Meeting Focus – Supporting Learning at home (S1 – S6) and Exam results
6. Headteacher's Report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Halloween Discos
9. 500 Club Draw
10. Confirmation of date of future meetings

6th November 2018

15th January 2019

12th March 2019

7th May 2019 (AGM)

Balforn Parent Council Contacts

By Email balfronhsparentcouncil@gmail.com

On Twitter [@BHS_Par_Council](https://twitter.com/BHS_Par_Council)

Facebook Balforn High Parent Council

Draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley (Chair), Lynne Seaton (Treasurer), Tara Williams (Fundraising), Jackie Mackay (Secretary), Wendy Robb, Wendy Hamilton, Tracey Macdonald, Ruth Ronald, Mhairi-Louise Shanks, Kathryn Cooper, Mary Steel, Heidi Spence, Amanda Quinn, Nicola Harrison, Fiona Lyle, Marjorie Torrance, Hannah Mackie, Fiona Garner, Sirin Wood, Stephanie Harper, Amanda Forbes, Elaine Bannatyne (HT), Dougie Scott (Technology), Anna McDonald (Head Girl), Jamie Cushing (Head Boy), Cara Begbie (Deputy Head Girl), Harry McCarron (Deputy Head Boy)

Apologies: Tim Winther, Katy Gibb (Vice Chair)

1 – Welcome

Gerry extended a warm welcome to everyone, especially to new parents who hadn't attended a parent council meeting before and thanked them for their support.

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (Tuesday 13th March 2018) were approved without comment. They were proposed by Wendy Robb and seconded by Wendy Hamilton

3 – Introduction of Head Prefects

The new Head Prefects introduced themselves to the meeting and best wishes were given to Anna, Jamie, Cara and Harry on their exciting year ahead.

They hope to address the following issues:-

Continuing on with the work started last year in connection with mental health, with the aim to make the pupils aware of what to do if they need extra support

Supporting the new S1's with an updated system for Buddying between the S6's and S1's. The aim is to match like minded pupils so they can work well together

Aiming to deal with the "little issues" so that hopefully the "bigger ones" become easier e.g. improve the number of bins in the atrium to help reduce litter and also improve the recycling options.

4 - Fundraising Update

This is a separate sub-committee of the Parent Council which is chaired by Tara Williams. Their aim is to raise funds to assist the school with added extras.

The main on-going initiatives are the 500 Club and the Balfron High School Clothing Company.

Last year there were raffles at the Christmas and Spring Concerts which they hope to repeat this year.

Also there was a successful ceilidh held at the end of transition week which aimed to welcome the new S1's, celebrate the end of the exams and also showcase the talents of the school's own ceilidh band.

In the 18/19 academic year the committee are planning to hold an online silent auction around Christmas.

Also the organisers of the Balfron 10k have asked if the Parent Council might be able to get more involved with possible fundraising activities on the day. The school benefits from 1/3rd of the profits from this event.

The Fundraising committee are having their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday 25th September at 7pm in the High School (Community Meeting Room on ground floor). Everyone is welcome to join the team to share ideas etc.

5 – Meeting Focus

Exam Results

Yet again the pupils of Balfron High School have achieved good results in this year's SQA exams.

By the end of 6th year

57% had achieved 5 Highers (up 2%)

69% had achieved 3 Highers (down 1%)

82% had achieved 1 Higher (down 3%)

82% had achieved 5 National 5's (up 1%)

These percentages are based on the size of the class at S4 not of those still attending school in S6

Overall the school were happy but are always striving to get the best from their pupils.

It was noted that the current S3 will be the first year to complete 7 National 5's compared the 6 National 5's that have been undertaken for the last 5 years.

Supporting Learning at Home (S1-S6)

Dougie Scott, one of the technology teachers very kindly attended the meeting to be able help parents of all years be aware of all the support and resources that are available to the pupils to assist their learning especially at home.

The school have been working hard on a revised homework policy. A working group was set up and a survey was sent out to parents, pupils and teacher. The group were delighted that they received over 800 responses to help them with this process.

A first draft of the Homework Policy was distributed at the meeting.

It covers the following areas:-

A – The rationale for setting homework

B – How tasks are communicated and assessed (Use of Show My Homework)

C – Time – a guideline for how much time is expected by each year group to spend on homework each week night

D – Frequency of homework

E – Relationship of homework to Positive Behaviour Policy (link to the merit/demerit system)

F – How to deal with homework issues whether understanding the task, lack of resources, time pressures etc

Parents at the meeting were invited to review the draft policy and if they have any feedback to complete the following form <https://goo.gl/forms/zFIHFdyBEKmpBIRQ2>

The school hope to have the final draft issued by the October break

Dougie Scott then moved on to let us know about all the different tools available to the pupils and parents

On the Balfron High School website in the area called ParentZone, there is an option called Digital Learning Zone. In this area there are links to all the different resources. However there is also a very useful document which describes what all the various resources do!

The key aim of the school is to have all home work issued via the Show My Homework App. This allows both pupils and parent to monitor timescales and quantities of homework.

Glow – This is the main online portal used by all pupils. It gives them access to the Google Suite of applications and also the Office 365 applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint etc). Within this there are the “Classroom” locations which is where pupils should post their homework when required to completed electronically

Sumdog (mainly used by S1-S3) is a numeracy and literacy tool which pitches the questions asked to the individual’s abilities.

Brainpop is similar to Sumdog but has a broader suite of resources

Scholar (mainly used by S4-S6) is a huge array of course notes and tutorials divided up by subject area

Education Scotland is also another large resource of course notes and tutorials

SQA website contains course details, past papers and tutorials for National 5 exams upwards

BBC Bitesize is a great area produced by the BBC to help students with revision

Quizlet and Kahoot are online applications that allow students to create their own test cards. However, there are also lots of study cards already created by other students for them to use too

Leckie and Leckie and Bright Red are traditional paper resources to help with various areas of revision

The school is also transitioning into a whole new chapter of education. Thanks to support from Stirling Council this year's S1's will all receive their own personal Chromebook which will be available for use both at school and home. For every Chromebook bought by Balfour High School, Stirling Council will buy two for the school.

The Chromebooks have arrived at the school and are currently being set up ready for the pupils. The school are also dealing with the policies for usage and care. They hope to have them issued to the pupils towards the end of October/early November. Please note it will not mean that all teaching will be on Chromebooks, jotters will still be used for various situations.

6 – Headteacher's Report

Attainment & Achievement

In addition to the Exam results discussed in the Meeting Focus section, Elaine was delighted to say that the school had held its first ever entirely pupil lead production of A Midsummers Night Dream this week. Head Girl Anna McDonald produced and directed the event. The team of pupils raised £500 which will now be available for future years to potentially hold another performance.

The school are also gearing up for their bi-annual school show. This year it will be My Fair Lady which will be on between 13th and 16th November

Parents as Partners

The school has already had its first UCAS/Further Education/Apprenticeship evening

Also announced that the S1 Form Class Leader interviews will be held during week beginning 1st October. This gives S1 parents the opportunity to meet their child's Form Teacher to discuss how they are transitioning to High School.

Elaine gave a demonstration of the website Education Scotland – Parentzone which shows how our previous S3 got on with their attainment goals.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> - choose the school you are interested then scroll down to the School Information Dashboard

Curriculum

The current S4's are out on work experience this week
The current S3 will be moving from 11 subjects to 7 in their S4 year (2019/20)
Freshers Fayre was held on Friday 24th September and lots of teams/clubs are now up and running
The S3's have been invited to Fintry to see Journey's End on 28th September

School Trips 18/19

The S1's are currently away on residential
The S6 Advanced Higher Geography trip is to Lochranza
The S2-S6 Lockerbie Music Trip has just happened
There will be a Geography Trip to Switzerland for S3's later in the year
The French Exchange will start soon (The French pupils arrive 4th October. Balfron pupils go to France May 9th)
Ocean Youth Trust event

The school would like to set up an Excursion Group/Survey of Parents to work out the pros and cons of possible school trips. If anyone is interested to be involved please contact the school.

Parents were made aware that when teachers go out on school trips it costs the school £245 per day per teacher to find cover. Up until now the school has been able to absorb the costs but with proposed savings that the school is required to make, in some cases cover costs may need to be considered in the cost of the trip.

The school has been looking at the option of asking parents to assist with day excursion (and possibly longer trips). An e-mail had been sent to parents and the school were delighted that they had received a number of offers of assistance.

The biggest worry was the need to PVG each person. The good news is that the Parent Council has recently registered with Volunteer Scotland which will allow them to PVG parents to assist with school events for free. If any parent would like to be PVG'd to be able to help assist the school with excursions etc then please contact the Parent Council.

General Update

Elaine gave an update of some staff changes.

Also informed us that she is starting to be involved with inspections for Education Scotland, which might mean that she needs to be out of the school on occasion.

7 – Treasurer's Report

Balances as at 11th September

Bank	- £3,630.89
Cash in Hand	- £60.00
Total Funds	- £3,690.89

The accounts to 30 April 2018 were review and agreed by Jackie Mackay CA.

Recap of Funds distributed in 17/18

£1,500 to the school (used for Maths Licence, Cake Decorating Nat 5 equipment, Native Speaking foreign language assistant, school bus and library books)

£100 to music department for hosting the Parent Council's Raffle

£100 to the ceilidh band for playing at the School Ceilidh

£240 for parking signs

£500 used for the 500 club prizes

Lynne proposed that the Parent Council keeps a minimum of £1,000 in funds in the bank account for emergencies. After ring fencing £500 for the prizes for the 500 Club Lynne proposed that £2,000 is gifted to the school.

It was requested that the school and the wider Parent Forum to suggest how this money is best spent. It was suggested that the decision is approved at the next Parent Council meeting on 6th November.

Lynne also said that she has seen the fundraising initiatives go from strength to strength and she would like to offer her thanks to those that have worked hard to bring these initiatives and events to fruition. She also gave a special thanks to all the members of the wider school community that have donated money, bought tickets, uniforms and lucky numbers for the 500 Club to help raise much needed funds for the pupils at the school.

8 – Halloween Discos

In recent years parents have been invited to help supervise the Halloween Discos. The school will be making the request again this year.

9 – 500 Club Draw

The draw was made for the prize of £100. The winning ticket was 111

10 – Any Other Competent Business

Five members of the Strathendrick Rugby Club (and parents of children at Balfron High School) have passed their UK CC level 2 coaching youth and adult rugby union qualifications. Congratulations to them all.

Facebook – a quick reminder that the Parent Council has a Facebook page – BalfronHighParentCouncil – please like our page to keep up to date with what the council is up to!

Amanda Quinn announced she has applied to Arnold Clark for funds for sports strips. It will be a Facebook vote so hopefully once it is up and running parents can share and like as much as possible to hopefully secure the £3,000 award.

Stirling Council are providing Parent Council Training. There are two events being held at St Modans, Striling between 18.30 and 20.30 as follows:-

Tuesday 25th September 2018 – Parent Council Essentials

Wednesday 14th November 2018 – School Improvement Plans

The places are free and if anyone is interested places can be booked through
parentcouncils@stirling.gov.uk

The Balfron 10k Committee are seeking support from parents to either join the committee to help organise the event and/or help on the day. Please contact us on balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com if you are interested.

11 – Confirmation of date of future meetings

Tuesday 6th November 2018

15th January 2019

12th March 2019

7th May 2019 (AGM)