



BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting – 11th September 2018
3. Fundraising Update
 - Bids for Parent Council funding
 - Sportswear
 - General update on fundraising events and activities
4. Parent volunteering
5. Meeting awareness/discussion topic- Vaping
6. Headteacher's Report
7. Treasurer's report
8. 500 Club Draw
9. A.O.C.B.
10. Confirmation of date of future meetings

15th January 2019

12th March 2019

7th May 2019 (AGM)

Balforn Parent Council Contacts

By Email	balfornhighschoolpc@gmail.com
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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BHS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 06/11/2018

Draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Gerry Eckersley (Chair), Katy Gibb (Vice Chair), Lynne Seaton (Treasurer), Jackie Mackay (Secretary), Marjorie Torrance, Mary Steel, Kirsteen Allan, Ruth Ronald, Nicola Harrison, Wendy Hamilton, Fiona Lyle, Annabel Sharp, Katie Goodier, Valerie Callan, Amanda Forbes, Amanda Quinn, Elaine Bannatyne (HT), Amanda Short (DHT), Tracey Patrick (DHT)

Apologies: Wendy Robb, Alan Campbell, Tim Winther, Katherine Cooper, Tara Williams, Hannah Mackie, Anna McDonald (Head Girl), Jamie Cushing (Head Boy)

1 – Welcome

Gerry extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked them for their support.

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last meeting (Tuesday 11th September 2018) were approved without comment. They were proposed by Lynne Seaton and seconded by Fiona Lyle

2a – Amanda Short

Amanda Short asked to raise a couple of issues.

Amanda is responsible for the parent's nights and was wondering if the Parent Council wished to put together a leaflet to be distributed at the various Parent's nights to help raise awareness of the Council. There would not be time for the S3 one on 7th November but maybe for the next ones (S2 – 21st November and S1 – 6th December)

Amanda thanked all the parents who were very kindly going through the PVG process to enable them to assist with school trips and other activities. If anyone else wishes to be PVG'd then either contact Amanda or the Parent Council who are organising the forms.

The Principal Teachers are working together to look at a system to improve form classes. This is at early stages and more details would be given at the next Parent Council meeting.

3 – Fundraising

Bids for Parent Council Funding

Since the previous meeting several bids were received from teachers and pupils requesting funds for various projects.

These requests were:-

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A – Providing Native/Fluent Speakers in Modern Languages - £200

B – Providing visiting authors - £400

C – STEM, Race for the Line - £498 (lasts for 3 years)

D – Maths S1 Textbooks - £386.65

E – Maths Workout Subscription - £110

F – Leotards for BHS Gymnastics Club - £300

G – Netball Equipment for the school teams - £175

These requests totalled £2,069.65

All requests were approved plus an amount of £205.35 to the school to go toward their minibus costs bring the total distributed by the Parent Council to £2,275.

Thank you to all for the support for various fundraising events which has allowed these payments to be made.

Sportswear

The Parent Council has very generously been offered some excess stock from one of our school parents (Sirin Wood). This is brand new branded sportswear. It is being co-ordinated by pupils to help them with marketing/selling skills. It will be sold at breaktimes by pupils with the funds going to the Parent Council. There will also be some available at the Balfron Clothing Company events.

General update on fundraising events and activities

The next Uniform Sale is being held on Saturday 10th November between 09.30 and 12.30 in the School Reception area. Any offers of help and donations of old uniform are gratefully accepted.

The Fundraising team are running an online Facebook Auction.

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/School-Fundraiser/Balfron-high-auction-1932416293729843/>)

Each Monday in November several lots will be issued for people to bid on. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account because the lots are visible without a log in and bids can be made via the Auction e-mail address of balfronhs.auction@gmail.com. Bidding runs to the following Sunday at 8pm.

The Parent Council have been given the opportunity to run refreshments and a raffle each night at the School Show (My Fair Lady) Tuesday 13th Nov to Friday 16th November. There will be Mulled Wine, Teas, Coffee etc and a raffle each night. The Mental Health Ambassadors will very kindly help with the sale of raffle tickets and they will also draw the tickets each night. Raffle tickets are available at the school reception if you are unable to make the show.

If anyone has any donations of raffle prizes or would be willing to help with the refreshments, please let us know (balfrohighschoolpc@gmail.com)

It was raised that not all parents used social media and could the Parent Council consider other methods to share information. Jackie and Elaine are to liaise to resolve this issue.

4 – Parent Volunteering

Elaine reiterated Amanda's thanks to parents who are willing to volunteer for school activities. The school is delighted to accept offers of help for not just school trips, but there are opportunities for volunteering in the classroom, social events, invigilating, reading/scribing in exams and more. It was stressed that whenever a parent/carer volunteers they are given the appropriate training needed.

It was suggested by Fiona Lyle that maybe the school could look at the use of Doodle Polls to allow parents/carers to volunteer for events. This was thought a great idea and the school plan to use it to recruit volunteers for the Christmas Social evenings.

5 – Meeting focus – Vaping

Elaine led a very interesting discussion about the use of e-cigarettes/vaping amongst the pupils of the school

On a positive note the smoking of cigarettes has dropped dramatically over the last few years but there has been a big increase in the use of e-cigarettes.

A very comprehensive sheet about Vaping was distributed at the meeting. This sheet is to be distributed to all parents/carers by the school

It was noted by one parent that it has been proved that nicotine is more addictive than heroin!

6 – Headteacher's report

Learning & Teacher

The school are delighted to announce that the Chromebooks for the S1's will be signed out by parents at their Parent's night on 6th December.

A list of all the supported study and extra-curricular activities generously provided by the teachers was circulated. This list is available on the school website in the Student Zone. Students are encouraged to make use of this support and not to wait until nearer the prelims/exams.

The school are continuing to work on Quality Assurance activities. These include Elaine visiting all classrooms to observe the teaching and Tri-learning (which is where three teachers get together to discuss their methods)

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The teachers are going to be having a “Looking Outwards” day on one of the in-service days in November. The teachers are being encouraged to go and visit a school out with the Balfron Cluster to hopefully pick up ideas to bring back to our pupils

Parents & Partners

The Pupil Equity Fund, which is now managed by Tracey, has increased this year from £15k to £22k. Last year this was used to fund an English Teacher SLA for two days a week and a PE teacher for one day a week. The aim of these teachers was to focus on closing the attainment gap. In addition to the teachers the funds were used to buy extra licences and subsidising trips where necessary. This year the staffing has changed but the focus is continuing to track the engagement of pupils. With continual monitoring it is hoped that any areas of difficulty are picked up quickly and can be resolved with counselling and coaching.

Tracey also wished parents to know that the initiative to end Period Poverty instigated by the Scottish Government had been rolled out at the school. The process is being run by pupils of the school, including an assembly presented by them to all the girls. Sanitary products are now located in two cubicles in each set girls’ toilets on each floor plus the gender-neutral toilets on each floor

Elaine reported that two parents attended the last drop in session and that the next session is on Tuesday 4th December at 4pm

Wider Achievement/Event

It was reported that the pupils are working very hard on their preparation for My Fair Lady (12th – 16th Nov)

The first leg of the French Exchange was a great success

The school is proud to announce that it is a Finalist in the Scottish First Aid Awards. This nomination is mainly due to Mr McQuarrie’s hard work at ensuring that all pupils in the school get training with Heart Start. We wish the school all the best for the award

The S1’s are about to start the Micro Tyco project. This is where they are challenged in small groups to turn £1 into as much as possible. The money raised goes to the Wild Hearts Charity.

Only the S1/S2 Halloween disco ran this year. The others did not run due to a lack of ticket purchases. It is hoped that the interest in the Christmas dances will be higher.

The school has also had successful trips by the S1s to Bannockburn and a group of pupils have just had an enjoyable week away sailing with the Ocean Youth Trust

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Elaine distributed a list of all the trips the school undertook in the 17/18 academic year. This included day trips and residential trips. It demonstrated the commitment of the teachers to the delivering of trips. Elaine also thanked all parents who responded to the survey sent out by the school about residential trips organised by the school. The group of parents who met previously will meet again to discuss the feedback from parents to assist the school with a way forward.

Staffing Update

Elaine gave an update of some staff changes. There are two posts being advertised (Computing and PE)

7 – Treasurer’s report

Balances as at 6th November

Bank - £3,502.98

Cash in Hand - £172.00

Total Funds - £3,674.98

As approved earlier in the meeting £2,275 is to be distributed to the school for the various bids.

This leaves £400 for the remaining 500 Club prizes plus a reserve of £1,000

Lynne let parents know that she was looking for another parent(s) to take over the running of the 500 Club. Valerie Callan very kindly agreed to take over from Lynne.

8 – 500 Club Draw

The draw was made for the prize of £100. The winning ticket was 170

9 – Any Other Competent Business

A request was made to ask for explanations of the different merit categories.

11 – Confirmation of date of future meetings

Tuesday 15th January 2019

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