

MINUTES OF THE BHS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 15/01/2019 -
APPROVED



BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting – 6th November 2018
3. Fundraising Update
4. Parent volunteering opportunities
5. Meeting awareness/discussion topic
 Chromebook update
 New Form Class Structure
6. Headteacher's Report
7. Treasurer's report
8. 500 Club Draw
9. A.O.C.B.
10. Confirmation of date of future meetings

12th March 2019
7th May 2019 (AGM)

Balfron Parent Council Contacts

By Email balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com
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Draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School

Present: Katy Gibb (Vice Chair), Lynne Seaton (Treasurer), Jackie Mackay (Secretary), Tara Williams (Fundraising), Mhairi-Louise Shanks, Wendy Robb, Wendy Hamilton, Ruth Ronald, Mary Steel, Nicola Harrison, Katie Goodier, Lorna Dougans, David Dougans, John Huxtable, Stephanie Harper Amanda Short (DHT), Tracey Patrick (DHT), Anna McDonald (Head Girl), Jamie Cushing (Head Boy)

Apologies: Elaine Bannatyne (HT), Gerry Eckersley, Frederique Power

1 – Welcome

In Gerry's absence, Katy extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Matters arising, it was confirmed that information leaflets about the Parent Council had been distributed at the S1 and S2 parent nights. It was also recommended that this should be continued, and the leaflets are also issued at the S4 and S5-6 parents' night in February.

It had been noted that not all parents/carers were on social media. To ensure that everyone is aware of the news from the Parent Council the school has kindly agreed to send our regular e-mails on behalf of the Parent Council to the full mailing list.

A suggestion was made to use "Doodle" polls to organise helpers/events. The school is still looking into the option but are hopeful to use it where appropriate.

A request was made for clarification of the different merit categories. The school are just finalising their Behaviour Policy and as soon as it is ready the information will be distributed to parents/carers

The school were finalists in the Scottish First Aid Awards, they were runner up in the awards.

The minutes of the last meeting (Tuesday 6th November 18) were then proposed by Lynne Seaton and seconded by Wendy Hamilton.

3 – Fundraising

Tara was delighted to start the new year with positive news about the fundraising activities held during Nov/Dec 18. A big thank you to everyone who helped at/supported the School Show, the Christmas Concert and the Online Auction. In particular, a big thank you to Wendy Robb who was the inspiration and co-ordinator for the Online Auction which raised an amazing £1,553.50. It was agreed that these events would happen again in 2019 plus the following

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- A – Providing refreshments at the Spring Concert (Tuesday 26th March)
- B – Providing refreshments at the S6 Graduation (Tuesday 23rd April)
- C – Organising the Summer/Transition Ceilidh (Friday 7th June)
- D – Running the BHS Clothing Company Sales at the Uniform evenings (Wed 12th and Thurs 13th June)

There is also possibility of a Burns Ceilidh in Jan/Feb 2020.

The Parent Council have already distributed the following amounts this academic year, which would not have been possible without all the support from parent/carers/teachers/pupils

1. £200 Providing Native / Fluent speakers in Modern languages
2. £400 Providing visiting authors
3. £498 STEM - Race for the line - lasts 3 years
4. £386.65 Maths S1 textbooks
5. £110 Maths workout subscription
6. £300 Leotards for BHS gymnastics club
7. £175 Netball equipment for the school teams
8. £300 Forestry school at Mugdock
9. £305.35 Minibus costs

Total £2,675

The Parent Council are now looking at various options for distributing the latest funds raised. They are looking at continuing funding small requests by the teachers/pupils or whether to aim for a large target for something specific. All ideas and suggestions are very welcome.

4 – Parent Volunteering Opportunities

Amanda Short would like to say thank you to all the parents/carers who have already gone through the system to become PVG registered to allow them to volunteer for activities with the school. The opportunities are not just being able to assist with excursions but with training could also include reading, scribing or invigilating with exams. It should also be noted that excursions come in fits and starts. There are many in the first few months of the academic year, but it becomes quiet between January and April because of the prelims/main exams. However, there will be some excursions in May and June once they are over.

As of 15th January, there are now 30 parent/carers PVG'd, 2 are still being processed plus 12 who have expressed an interest and are in the process of filling in their forms.

If any parent/carer is interested in being PVG'd to give them the opportunity to possibly volunteer with the school then please contact the Parent Council on balfrohighschoolpc@gmail.com and the relevant form can be organised.

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5 – Meeting Awareness/Discussion Topic

Chromebook Update

Tracy Patrick reported that Mr Slavin and Mr Scott confirmed that everyone who wanted a Chromebook in S1 now has one. There were some initial teething problems, but they have all now been resolved.

In addition to the S1's there have been a handful of additional pupils issued with Chromebooks to assist with their preparation for exams.

The teachers are in the process of trying to embed their use into "normal life" and where appropriate the Chromebook is being used.

Training has been given to all children and teachers on how to use the Chromebooks and this will be ongoing as issues arise.

The feedback from parents has been very positive. It was queried whether exams in the future will be electronic or will children still need to be able to write for a prolonged period of time in due course!

The school does need to install more "hubs" within the school to ensure that the Wi-Fi will be able to cope with the expanding use of the Chromebook. The school are hoping that there will be funding available for this.

New Form Class Structure

Amanda Short explained that historically in each year each house would have three form classes, a total of 9 form classes each year. For the last few years there has been falling pupil numbers and as a result there has been less than 9 form classes each year. The house with only two form classes has rotated but it has led to imbalance with the houses.

Form classes currently have approximately 20 pupils in them but could be up to 30 pupils. This planned restructuring of reducing all years to two form classes per house will free up a teacher to be available for teaching their subject

The third form class in each house will be split between the other two within their house. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to identify the best form class to transfer a pupil to.

Amanda Short will be having a series of assemblies, one year group at a time. On the same day parents of that year group will receive details of the proposed changes. The actual details of which form class a pupil might be moved to will hopefully be issued around half term. The changes will be applicable from June 3rd 2019 when the various years move up.

Please note the current S5 which will become the S6 for the 2019/20 academic year will be unaffected.

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Course Choices

Amanda Short also informed the meeting that the Course Choice evening for S2-5 pupils is to be held on 7th February 2019. The final date for handing course choices will be Friday 29th March

Also, the S5/6 and S4 Parent's Nights will be organised by online booking.

School Trips

Amanda Short wished it to be known that the team were amazed by the response to the offer of a school ski trip in Spring 2020. They had expected about 30-40 applicants, but they have received 135 initial notes of interest! They are now looking at various options to hopefully accommodate extra pupils!

6 – Head Teacher's Report

In Elaine Bannatyne' s absence Amanda Short and Tracey Patrick covered her report.

Learning and Teaching

In addition to the news on Chromebooks the staff focus areas are Making Thinking Visible and Cooperative Learning

Elaine plus a Principal Teacher have completed open doors days (i.e. observing how teaching in classes to share practice and promote high quality consistency) in Technology, PE, Social Subjects and Health. She hopes to observe all other areas this term

Curriculum and National Qualifications

During the in-service days the teachers will be focusing on learning and teaching plus Health and Wellbeing

The S2 will be making course choices for 11 Courses in S3

The S3 will be making course choices for 7 National Qualifications in S4

The S4 will be making course choices for 5 National Qualifications in S5

The S5 will be making course choices for 4 Courses in S6

There will be an information meeting to help with choices on Thursday 7th February – S2/3 (17.30 – 18.30) – S4/5 (18.30 – 19.30)

The S4's will be going to the McRobert to see the Safe Drive Stay Alive presentation on Friday 8th February

All the S1 went to visit the war memorial and local church in Balfron through RME

Attainment

The Standard and Quality Report is now available on the website

Details of the available Supported Study has been e-mailed to parents

Parents and Partners

Upcoming Parents Nights

S5/6 – Monday 18th February

S4 – Monday 25th February

There will be interviews with the various Form Class Teachers to discuss each child's course choices.

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For S2 pupils this will be during the weeks beginning 19th and 25th February

For S3 pupils this will be during the weeks beginning 12th - 22nd March

The school are looking at the best ways to utilise the parents who are now PVG'd

The school also asked if there was anything that the school could do to give extra help to children and parents. A couple of suggestions were: -

A – Making children aware of the new homework group

B – Letting parents know the SQA deadlines for folios etc need to be lodged

Wider Curriculum and Ethos

The Christmas activities were all very successful

Rotary Young Musician of the Year winners – Harry Baines won the Advanced Instrumental Class and Anna MacEachern won the Advance Vocal Class

Healthy eating concerns have been past to the PE department for input into an assembly. Elaine plus another teacher also visited the Coop/Village to understand what the children are choosing for their lunch

Fundraising has expired for the school counsellor. It was provided by Action in Mind. It was well used, with a counsellor coming 1 day a week. 10 children were seen each week and there was always a waiting list. The school are looking at funding options (Could this be something the parents might wish to support from parent council funds?)

The school hosted a Head Prefect Networking Seminar where all Head Prefect/Captains from each Stirling School shared their priorities. Anna and Jamie confirmed it was a useful event and it was interesting to discover that most schools had the same issues.

A Group of S6 girls have won a Respect Me competition. They have won £1,000 to develop an E-resource on healthy relationships.

Anna (HG) and Jack Brittain delivered a presentation on their visit to Auschwitz. Anna reported that this trip was via the Holocaust Educational Trust. They attended two seminars plus their trip to Auschwitz. Anna and Jack are now Ambassadors for the Trust.

The Youth Philanthropic Trust (YPI) run a scheme where local charities come to an event with the pupils to promote their charity. The pupils then vote on which charity they think is the most deserving. The winning charity would receive £2,000. They are looking for local charities to take part.

Staffing Update

The Computing vacancy is unfilled at the moment and has been re-advertised. It is being covered by a supply teacher

The Support Resource Officer is being job shared by T Morrison and J McNeillis

Mrs Ellis (Geography) has returned from Maternity Leave (3 teachers currently on Maternity Leave)

Mr Perman starts 21st January in the role of PE teacher

7 – Treasurer's report

Balances as at 15th January 2019

Bank - £2,417.09

Cash in hand - £496.00

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Total Funds - £2,913.09

Again, a huge thank you to everyone for supporting the 500 Club, The BHS Clothing Co, the provision of refreshments at events and the Online Auction.

Though is needed as to how current and future funds are to be spent (as mentioned in the Fundraising section at No3)

8 – 500 Club Draw

The draw was made for the prize of £100. The winning ticket was 166

9 – Any Other Competent Business

None

10 – Confirmation of date of future meetings

12th March 2019

7th May 2019 (AGM)