



## **BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

Notice of Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balforn High School

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019
3. Fundraising Update
4. Parent volunteering opportunities
5. Meeting awareness/discussion topic – Anti Bullying, Mentors for Violence Prevention and Keeping Young People Safe.
6. Headteacher's Report
7. Treasurer's report
8. 500 Club Draw
9. Office Bearers for 2019/20
10. A.O.C.B.
11. Confirmation of date of future meetings

7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (AGM)

### **Balforn Parent Council Contacts**

By Email	<a href="mailto:balfornhighschoolpc@gmail.com">balfornhighschoolpc@gmail.com</a>
On Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/BHS_Par_Council">@BHS_Par_Council</a>
Facebook	Balforn High Parent Council

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BHS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 12/03/2019

Draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfroun High School

**Present:** Gerry Eckersley (Chair), Lynne Seaton (Treasurer), Jackie Mackay (Secretary), Jayne Wooldridge, Heather Gardner, Steven McCooey, Debbie McLeod, Annabel Sharp, Fiona Gallagher, Fiona Lyle, Ruth Ronald, Olivia Spencer, Deborah Dorrian, Heather Hamilton, Lynda Thomson, Donald Morrisonn, Shionagh Morrison, Louise Blair, Nicola Harrison, Amanda Quinn, Wendy Robb, Elaine Bannatyne (HT), Claire Appelquist (DHT), Phil Slavin (DHT), Tracey Patrick (DHT), Grace Shaw (PT), Jennifer Mackay (PT), Elaine Johnstone (PT)

**Apologies:** Katy Gibb (Vice Chair), Tara Williams (Fundraising), Frederique Power

### **1 – Welcome**

Gerry extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting on such a wild evening.

### **2 – Minutes of previous meeting**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019) were then proposed by Lynne Seaton and seconded by Wendy Robb.

### **3 – Fundraising**

Tara was unable to make tonight's meeting but wished to draw to everyone's attention the upcoming fundraising events where refreshments and a raffle would be held (Spring Concert on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March and the S6 Graduation on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April). A thank you was made to everyone who had already donated raffle prizes. The committee are looking for offers of help on the two nights and a board was passed round the meeting for people to add their names if they were interested.

A thank you was also extended to everyone who came to the Balfroun Clothing Company's sale on the previous Saturday. The most popular items were blazers. They now have a stock of blazers and if anyone is looking for a specific blazer, if they would like to contact the Parent Council they would see if they could match the request. The next stall would be held at the Uniform Nights (Wed 12<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June)

### **4 – Parent Volunteering Opportunities**

There are now 36 parents/carers registered for PVG with 3 more still in the system. If any parent/carer would like to become PVG'd and be able to assist in children's activities then please contact the Parent Council.

Amanda Short has sent a survey out to all PVG'd parents to ask what sort of activities that they might be interested in e.g. school trips, support for pupils with additional support needs, evening events, in-class support for pupils, mentoring, support in the library, support with reading, homework club or other. There was also a query if

anyone had language skills they might like to share. It shows just how much parents could assist the school if interested. It was stressed that appropriate training would be given to any parent/carer as needed.

**5 – Meeting Awareness/Discussion Topic  
Anti Bullying, Mentors for Violence Prevention and Keeping Young People Safe.**

Claire Appelquist, who is head of Pupil Support, said that the purpose of the discussion topic is to show how the school is putting policies in place to prevent challenging bullying behaviour at the school.

The policy is being reviewed because the current policy does not reflect how being online affects behaviour. The new policy aims to give guidelines for the school and parents so they can deal with challenging behaviour. The policy was last reviewed in 2010 and the major changes are prejudice based issues.

The revised policy aims to bring the policy in line with the Respect for All National Anti-Bullying Approach for Scotland's Children and Young People.

The updated policy will endorse the principles from the National Policy which are:-

- every child and young person in Scotland will grow up free from bullying and will develop respectful, responsible and confident relationships with other children, young people and adults
- children and young people and their parents/carers, will have the skills and resilience to prevent and/or respond to bullying appropriately
- every child and young person who requires help will know who can help them and what support is Available
- adults working with children and young people will follow a consistent and coherent approach in dealing with and preventing bullying from early learning and child care onwards.

It was reinforced that bullying is never acceptable no matter its format and that it should be addressed immediately. Training is available for teachers and parents. There is a free workshop for parents "Responding to Bullying" and if anyone would be interested then please contact the school.

Claire Appelquist went on to explain what is considered bullying. It is both behaviour and impact; the impact is on a person's capacity to feel in control of themselves. This is what we term as their sense of 'agency'. Bullying takes place in the context of relationships' it is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened and left out. This behaviour happens face to face and online.

Bullying behaviour may be a result of prejudice-based views, beliefs and fears, leading to the dislike and hatred of individuals and groups; this is called prejudice-based bullying. It can be based on any characteristic or characteristics unique to a child or young person's identity or circumstance and some of these characteristics are protected by law under the *Equality Act 2010*, including sexual orientation and gender reassignment. Examples of 20 different areas of prejudices were displayed with 9 being noted as protected under law. The prejudice could be either perceived or an actual difference. 56% of Scottish children said they were aware of pupils being bullied.

It was stated that online bullying is just the same as face to face bullying. Despite media reports face to face bullying is still more prevalent than online bullying, however the school mainly deals with the results of online bullying.

The school's motto of Respect For All has a number of aspects. These are:-

- A – Prevention of bullying – main aim
- B – Protecting the young children from bullying
- C – Creating the right environment to generate positive relationships
- D – Recording and monitoring bullying incidents
- E – Continuing self-evaluation to continually improve

The school aim to have a proactive and nurturing culture showing that bullying is not tolerated. The school has various methods to help anti-bullying

A – A system within Glow called the "Worry Box" which allows a pupil to send a message to pupil support so any unacceptable behaviour can be addressed as soon as possible.

B – The recording of events gives the teachers an opportunity to possibly spot patterns of behaviour and result in early intervention.

C – The S1's are involved in producing Anti-Bullying posters which are displayed around the school

D – The teachers aim to be positive role models and lead by example

E – Personal and Social Education Classes deals with the topic of bullying each year

F – The school are creating a mentoring/buddy system with the older pupils to hopefully provide someone a pupil can talk to other than a teacher.

G – Bullying/Diversity is covered regularly in assemblies followed up by activities in form class

H – Mental Health and Well Being is also covered at assemblies ensuring that pupils know who to go to if they have any issues. The school has a large number of mental health first aiders amongst the staff of the school. These teachers wear a yellow lanyard so the pupils are able to identify who they can speak to. The result of a survey amongst the pupils was that exams made them the most anxious.

I – Three teachers at the school have been on the Mentors in Violence Prevent. The S5's will then be trained and will in turn present their training to the S4's. There are 15 areas that are looked at including gender-based violence, being a by-stander, social media and sexual consent.

J – Working with Parents. The school are looking to put together a working group to ensure that parents are given the practical skills needed to deal with bullying. If any

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parent is interested, then please contact the school. The school are hoping to get an electronic copy of The Respect Me brochure to share with parents. The school are also looking to organise a "How to Stay Safe" event where parents can share their tips and ideas on how they ensure their child(ren) stay safe. A date for this will be announced in due course.

The school uses SEEMiS (Scottish Education, Education Management Information System) to record any bullying event. The information detailed includes the names of any people involved in the event, the location, the type of bullying, any issues to be taken into consideration, the actions taken (including any resolution) and follow up information checking that the situation has been resolved.

The school will be continuing to promote equality and diversity within the school and hope to encourage the reporting of any incidents by both children and parents

At the end of the presentation Claire Appelquist asked if there were any questions.

The following questions were raised.

Q - What are the consequences to the bullies?

A – There are a range of options as no two bullying events are the same. The school will touch base with the children, parents and if necessary the campus police officer

Q – What is the timescale once an incident is reported?

A – The school aim to agree with the child/parent a plan as quickly as possible

Q – Are mobile devices necessary in school?

A – They have a place in the school, but it is an issue that is to be reviewed

Q – Are the children being given the various presentations about bullying in small groups or large assemblies?

A – The presentations are given to various sizes of groups

There were also a number of observations made:-

1 – That a lot of the issues start in primary school and carry on through to secondary school

2 – Parents have a responsibility at home in the evening/weekend to keep an eye on their children's activities. Parent's roles in any bullying situation must be included within the policy

3 – Parents should encourage their children to be kind, generous and to speak up for vulnerable children.

The summary of the meeting is that the school would appreciate a few parents to join a working group and keep everyone up to date with progress on the revision of the policy.

## **6 – Head Teacher’s Report**

Elaine Bannatyne covered the following topics

### National Qualifications

Statistics were provided regarding Literacy and Numeracy, School Leavers with a Positive Destination, Total Tariff Points (the sum of all the grades achieved) and Attainment v Deprivation. The school were delighted to point out that Balfron High School came above average in all categories.

Study leave starts 23<sup>rd</sup> April for S6 and 24<sup>th</sup> April for S5. For those not entitled to study leave (i.e. a pupil sitting less than 3 National exams) there is a bespoke programme which could include work experience, employability award, preparation for the next academic year or sports leadership activities.

### Attainment

The students are encouraged to utilise the supported study opportunities

### Parent & Partners

The school are continuing to work on:-

The Curriculum

The use of Chromebook

The Homework Policy

The Form Class Structure

The Communication Policy

A reminder was made about the Monthly drop in sessions with Elaine Bannatyne

A survey is to go out to P7 parents asking what they might know about their child starting Balfron High School in August to ensure the presentation in June is as thorough as possible.

### Curriculum

A list of subject available to the S4-6 was shared. In addition, it listed opportunities for vocational activities and foundation apprenticeships.

### Wider Achievements

Art 4 You invited the students to showcase their work. The pupils were shown how to frame and hang their art work.

The S2 Giant Heptathlon team are the National Champions

A group of S6 pupils have won the Respect Me competition and they will be creating an e-magazine with advice on positive relationships for younger pupils

Doug Allan (Blue Planet Camera man) visited the S5/S6 and inspired sustainability/eco agenda.

World Book Day was a success with “drop everything and read”

14<sup>th</sup> March was Pi Day for the S1

The school had visiting teachers from Norway. They had visited previously and were so impressed with the teaching methods they sent extra teachers to observe.

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The Spring Concert is on 26<sup>th</sup> March and will include P7's from feeder schools

The Awards Ceremony for Juniors (S1-S3) will be on 31 May.

The Awards Ceremony for Seniors (S4-6) will be held in September based on SQA awards

During Apprenticeship Week (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March) various speakers came in each day to talk to the pupils

LGBT History week was a success

The S6 Graduation is on 23<sup>rd</sup> April

The French Exchange will start on 9<sup>th</sup> May

The S3 Alps Trip will head off on 18<sup>th</sup> May

### Staffing – Posts advertised for August 2019

Physical Education

Home Economics

### Issues with Staffing

The school has not been able to appoint a Computing Teacher despite three rounds of advertising. There is a national shortage of computing teachers. The school appreciate that this is not a good situation for the pupils of the school, and they are doing their best to support the current pupils. The principal teachers are ensuring that resources are available including Scholar which is subsidiary of Heriot Watt and is a tool for higher computing. The school are also receiving support from St Modans and Bannockburn school and are also providing an after-school club. The school will be advertising again in due course with the aim to securing a teacher for the 20/21 academic year

### Primary/Secondary Transition

The transition programme is now well underway again with the following activities

A – Library visits from the feeder schools

B – Visits by Elaine Bannatyne and S5 pupils to the feeder schools

C – Emergency Services Day at the High School attended by all the feeder schools

D – Deputy Head/Support for Learning/S1 visits

E – After school events in May

F – 3 Day transition in June

G – Parent information evening (11<sup>th</sup> June)

### **7 – Treasurer's report**

Balances as at 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Bank - £1,614.59

Cash in hand – funds from Balfron Clothing Co Sale on 9<sup>th</sup> March as yet unknown

£1,250 was given to the school to pay for a counsellor for the children.

The Deputy First Minister has made a commitment to provide funding for a counsellor in all schools by the next academic year.

After a small survey with parents the result was the parents would like funds raised by the parent council to be used for a mixture of small and large projects within the school.

**8 – 500 Club Draw**

The draw was made for the prize of £100. The winning ticket was 127

**9 – Office Bearers for 2019/20**

The next meeting is the AGM and the current Chair and Treasurer will be standing down. Interest has been shown for these vacancies.

**10 – Any Other Competent Business**

A question had been received from a parent asking “had any assessment been made on the use of the electronic jotters in Modern Studies”. At the time of the meeting the final evaluation was not available but since then the following information was supplied:-

“Last session was the 2nd session using Chromebook as an all electronic resource for modern studies. The evaluation highlighted:

- Electronic resources could be updated immediately by teachers. It was felt this was better than booklets as pupils had access immediately. The nature of modern studies means that materials are ever updating to reflect the current changing world.
- All resources were accessible from one place and accessible for pupils at any time beyond the lesson time.
- There were increased opportunities for collaborative on-line work.
- Most pupils surveyed liked using the Chromebook.
- Ultimately we noted an increase in S4 N5 modern studies attainment last year.: 25 As, 14 Bs, 9 Cs, 6 Ds. 80% of pupils achieved an A or a B. The pupils who got no award in N5 did achieve an N4 modern studies award. This was a significant improvement on the previous year. You might find it interesting to compare the Balfron performance to Stirling and the national picture.

**11 – Confirmation of date of future meetings**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (AGM)