



## **Balforn High School Parent Council**

### **Draft Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 7.00pm in the Strathendrick Suite**

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present** – Katy Gibb (Chair), Wendy Robb (Vice Chair), Ruth Ronald (Treasurer), Tara Williams (Fundraising), Samantha Baird, Gerry Eckersley, Claire Mulgrew, Wendy Hamilton, Mary Steel, Nicola Harrison, Tim Winther, Gwen Quinteros, Valerie Callan, Elena Mitrofanova, John Huxtable, Claudia Persichini, Colin Galloway, Ruth Gilfillan, Paul Searle, Clare Brogan, Jackie Savery Pope, Narina Fowlds, Kristyna Bohmova, Margo Bolzicco, Elaine Bannatyne (Head Teacher), Tracey Patrick (Depute), Amanda Short (Depute) Claire Applequist (Depute).

**Apologies** – Jackie Mackay, Cheryl Brown, Amanda Quinn, Clara Glynn

**Welcome** – Katy Gibb warmly welcomed all the parents and gave a brief description of the format of the parent council meetings, along with some information about the purpose of the group.

#### **2. Minutes and points arising from last ordinary meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Proposed by Wendy Hamilton and seconded by Gerry Eckersley.

Funding not yet in place for school counsellor, EB to investigate.

#### **3. Introduction of head prefects**

The new Head Prefects were introduced by Elaine Bannatyne – Jamie Horrocks, Rose Eckersley, Briagha Cook, Cameron Prempeh, Jamie Young. This year our young people will be Head Prefects, rather than Head Boy/Girl etc. The leadership team were also introduced for the benefit of any new parents.

#### **4. Bus update**

A week prior to the end of the summer 2019 term, First Bus gave notice of its intention to cancel the service to/from Balforn to Balloch. This bus service was regularly used by 50+ young people from out with the Balforn High catchment area to travel to and from school. The school and parent council were able to assist the parents of the young people to form a group and develop a plan to provide a way to transport the young people, resulting in a bus funded by way of a season ticket paid for by the parents. The parents report that the young people are happy with the arrangement, that it works out to be a little cheaper than the service bus and that everything is working well so far. The group thanked the Parent Council and School for their support.

There was some discussion around if children without a season ticket could access the bus on an occasional basis. However, this is not possible as the bus is at capacity and the terms of the arrangement with Carr's means that only those young people with the passes can access the bus due to their insurance.

## **5. Fundraising**

Tara Williams (Fundraising Committee Chair) discussed the role of this Parent Council sub-group.

Funds for the school are raised in the following ways:

- 500 club – 5 draws per year taking place at the Parent Council meetings
- Balfron High Clothing Co. – selling used uniforms items, usually on selected Saturday mornings in the school. Dates to be arranged
- Sales of refreshments, or by donation, and raffles at school events (shows, concerts, prizegiving etc.)
- Facebook auction

Tara described how the school staff and young people were encouraged to make bids to fund various projects and equipment. Last year, the parent council has funded sessions for a school counsellor, forest schools, textbooks, netball equipment and much more. Last year the amount given to school bids was £4,165.

**The group would really like donations of raffle and auction prizes to help the fundraising continue. All items will be gratefully received at school or by the committee.** New members to the fundraising group would be warmly welcomed and a date for the next meeting will be arranged.

## **6. Parent Volunteering opportunities**

The need for Parent volunteers has come about to help the school save the cost of a supply teacher (£200 per day). The initiative is working well with the library being partially staffed by volunteers some days during the week and with parents accompanying young people and staff on trips. The volunteers also gave positive feedback about their experiences. The school would welcome more volunteers and those interested should contact Mrs Short. The volunteers would need to undergo a PVG check and some forms were distributed to interested parents following the meeting. The forms should be returned to Jackie Mackay ([balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com](mailto:balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com)) on completion together with documents for identity checks.

Volunteering opportunities include –

Assisting on school trips

Providing in-class support

Mentoring

Helping in the library

Support with reading

Invigilating

Support modern language learning

## **7. Future Pathways**

Tracey Patrick, Depute Head with responsibility for future pathways, gave a presentation about the changing picture of learning and employment opportunities available on leaving school. Although the majority of BHS leavers go on to university, there are an increasing number of exciting modern and graduate apprenticeships along with college courses available as a route through to university by way of a linked degree – 2 years at college then university.

The school offers future pathways advice and events to every year group. Young people are encouraged to ask questions such as: will it suit me, am I good at it and are encouraged to use resources such as 'my world of work' (which has a parent's section – [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)) along with researching jobs and qualifications/pathways to it.

In 4<sup>th</sup> year, all young people have a week of work experience, in a place of their choice. The work placement unit gives a Nat5 level award which helps the young person to look at their skills, think about a job they are interested in and helps young people to find positives in their experience.

At 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year level the young people are invited to attend the UCAS convention and encouraged to go on open days. Applications for some universities start very soon and most university applications close in January, when college applications open. Applications for apprenticeships are throughout the year. The students meet with the PT (Principal Teacher) of their home area to write their personal statements. These are needed for applications to universities, colleges and for apprenticeships. The PT also gives a report on behalf of the school.

There is an information evening on 12/09/19 in the school for the parents of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> year pupils. This is a yearly event with a different range of colleges, universities and businesses represented each year. The school always values feedback following this event.

There was some discussion around apprenticeships, and it was reported that some young people found apprenticeships from their work experience placements.

Mrs Patrick also reported that some universities are asking for more Highers rather than Advanced Highers and that young people should check the requirements with the university prior to choosing their Highers.

## **8. Headteacher's Report**

Elaine Bannatyne gave her headteacher's report (added to the end of these minutes). This included a form of the composition of the timetable for each year group, a snapshot of how the school was performing, information on school trips planned, staffing, and school improvement priorities for the year. The plan is based on data, observations and feedback from staff, parents and pupils. Analysis of the SQA results was shared, with no significant changes from previous years. This year will be the first year that students can study 7 Nat5 subjects in 4<sup>th</sup> year, having reduced the number of subjects in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The school always encourages young people to study the subjects they do best in but do not stop a young person from choosing a subject of their choice.

The head prefects asked some questions about remarks, following exam results. Mrs Short explained that in the last few years, the appeal system following exam results has been replaced with the possibility of a remark. This is only possible if the school has evidence that a young person has performed better within 2 bands. The chances of a remark are slim as are the chances of a change in grade – a change could also be a decrease in marks given. This year the school have put forward 30 young people for a remark. Exceptional circumstances (being ill on the day of the exam, for example) can only be put in at the time of the exam. Mrs Short emphasised how important the prelims were in

being able to give evidence about a pupil's work and that they should be treated with the rigour of an exam.

Some young people in school are staging a production of 12<sup>th</sup> Night, with the funds for this being made available from last year's production of a Midsummer's Night Dream. This will take place on 10th October.

Form class leader interviews for 1<sup>st</sup> year students will take place at the end of September.

IT – with 2 full year groups using Chromebooks, there are some concerns that the school's infrastructure will not support this. An independent company is conducting a survey. The school has no budget for IT.

Questions were asked about how the Chromebooks were helping, and Ms Bannatyne reported that Dougie Scott had carried out some research. In science, for example, they are now fully integrated into science classes and fewer young people are using overlays in learning support. It can be difficult finding a balance between technology and writing. The number of young people using a digital paper in exams increased last year.

### **9. Treasurer's report**

Ruth Ronald gave a brief summary of our financial position. There is £3490 in the Parent Council Account and, therefore, the staff and young people have been encouraged to submit bids for funding.

### **10. General questions**

#### **How do young people get home from afterschool clubs?**

Services buses still run to Glasgow and Stirling, but bus passes are not accepted. For young people not on these routes, DRT (Direct Response Transport) is available and must be booked in advance (on the morning of the day it is needed at reception). There is a charge for this service. Amanda Short to email information to parents.

**How is Stirling Council supporting the school in appointing a teacher of computer science?** The teaching schedule has been amended for this year as this post remained unfilled. The next staff planning exercise is in January, when staffing needs will be established for the next year. Young people can access some courses at Forth Valley college.

**Where do I find out about extracurricular activities?** See below for latest clubs/activities. Information is also on notice boards in home areas, around school etc. and on the school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronhshealth/health/physical-education/extra-curricular/>

### **Extra-curricular Activities- 2019-20 September**

Day	Activity	Where	When
Monday	Amnesty International	B1	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Pipe Band Ukulele Ensemble Rock Band	Open Area A8 A7	Lunchtime Lunchtime Lunchtime

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE BHS PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 03/09/19

	Debating	B18	Lunchtime
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jazz Trio Guitar Ensemble Astronomy LGBT+ & Allies Full Orchestra Wind Band String Orchestra	A8 A7 C15 C7 Theatre Open Area Theatre	Lunchtime Lunchtime Lunchtime Lunchtime After School After School After School
<b>Thursday</b>	Science Club Dungeons & Dragons Ceilidh Band Senior Vocalists Film Club	C18 C7 A8 A7 C5	Lunchtime Lunchtime Lunchtime Lunchtime After School
<b>Friday</b>	Full Choir	A7	Lunchtime



## WEEKLY EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE



### MONDAY

TOUCH RUGBY	Ms Maxwell	1.10 - 1.40pm
SWIMMING CLUB	Miss Boyd	1.10 - 1.40pm
S1-3 DANCE / CHEER	Mrs Fisher	1.10 - 1.40pm
S1-6 GYMNASTICS	Mr Perman	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-2 NETBALL	Mrs McLay / Miss Vickers	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-6 GOLF CLUB	Mr Lauder	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
S2 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
S3 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
S4 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-3 FITNESS	Miss Boyd	3.30 - 4.30pm

### TUESDAY

S1-3 FOOTBALL GAMES (ASTRO)	Mr Lauder	3.30 - 4.30pm
S3-6 GIRLS NETBALL	Mrs McLay / Miss Vickers	3.30 - 4.30pm
S4-6 FITNESS	Miss Boyd	3.30 - 4.30pm
OPEN SWIM	Bellrock	3.30 - 4.30pm

### WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY WAKE UP CLUB	Mr Lauder	8 - 8.45am
S1-6 HOCKEY	Miss Francis / Emma Wilkes	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-6 BASKETBALL	Mr Perman	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-6 GIRLS FOOTBALL	Mr Lauder	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
S2 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 4.30pm
WATERPOLO	Finn Thomson / Archie McGowan	3.30 - 4.30pm
S4-6 FITNESS	Rosie Eckersley	3.30 - 4.30pm

### THURSDAY

S1 BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING	Mr Lauder	3.30 - 4.30pm
S2 BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING	Mr Lauder	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-6 GIRLS RUGBY	Mr Dalziel	3.30 - 4.30pm
S1-6 BADMINTON	Mr Haig/PE	3.30 - 4.30pm
UNDER 15 BOYS RUGBY	SRFC	3.30 - 5pm
VOLLEYBALL	Mrs Fisher	3.30 - 4.30pm
OPEN SWIM	Bellrock	3.30 - 4.30pm

**Where do I find out about supported study?** From the teacher and in the subject home area. Plus the school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronhighschool/pupils-info/supported-study/>

**How do I find out about lost property?** At the end of every half term, lost property is laid out for students to identify. Parents can come to the Bellrock office in school at any time.

**What are the food options at school?** The Head prefects report 'anything!' and that the food is really good.

**What do kids do at lunchtime?** Interhouse activities (Students get away 5 minutes early from class if taking part), go to library, eat, clubs, supported study

**My child is doing exams. Where is the best place for information?** SQA website, Glow, BBC bitesize for revision papers etc., check with each department what book is best if buying a book.

#### **11. 500 Club Draw**

Congratulations to ticket holder 54!

#### **12. AOCB**

Some of the Head Prefects suggested a restriction/ ban school-wide/home on mobile phones during certain times. EB notes that this would need to be reinforced at home and that most of the bullying messages by phone/online occur out with school time. Head prefects to work on proposed guidelines and the school will consider running the online safety evening again.

There is some discrepancy between information from the school and Stirling council relating to holidays. The school will clarify the holidays for this year.

Further to the Online Safety Meeting held in May, Katy is to compile some notes for that evening to go up on the website

#### **13. Next dates**

12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

10<sup>th</sup> March 2020

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (AGM)

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for coming.

Balfron High Parent Council:

E-mail – [balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com](mailto:balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com)

Twitter - @BHS\_Par\_Council

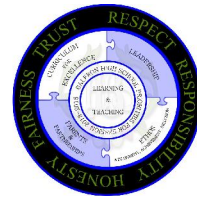
Facebook – Balfron High Parent Council



Head Teachers' Report is attached below



## Head Teachers Report Parent Council Update 3/9/19



### New Head Prefects:

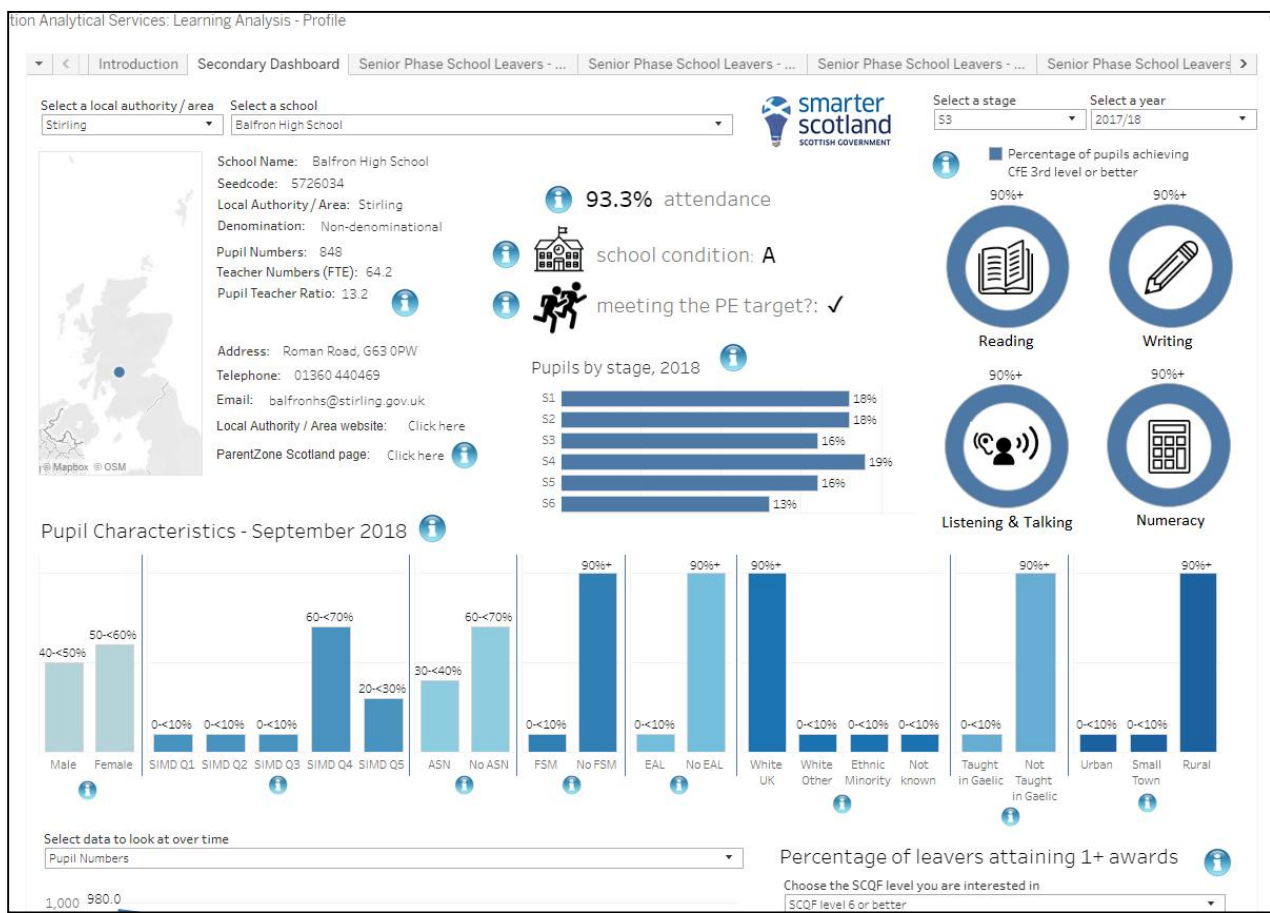
Rose Eckersley, Jamie Horrocks, Briagha Cook, Cameron Prempeh, Jamie Young

### Attainment & Achievement

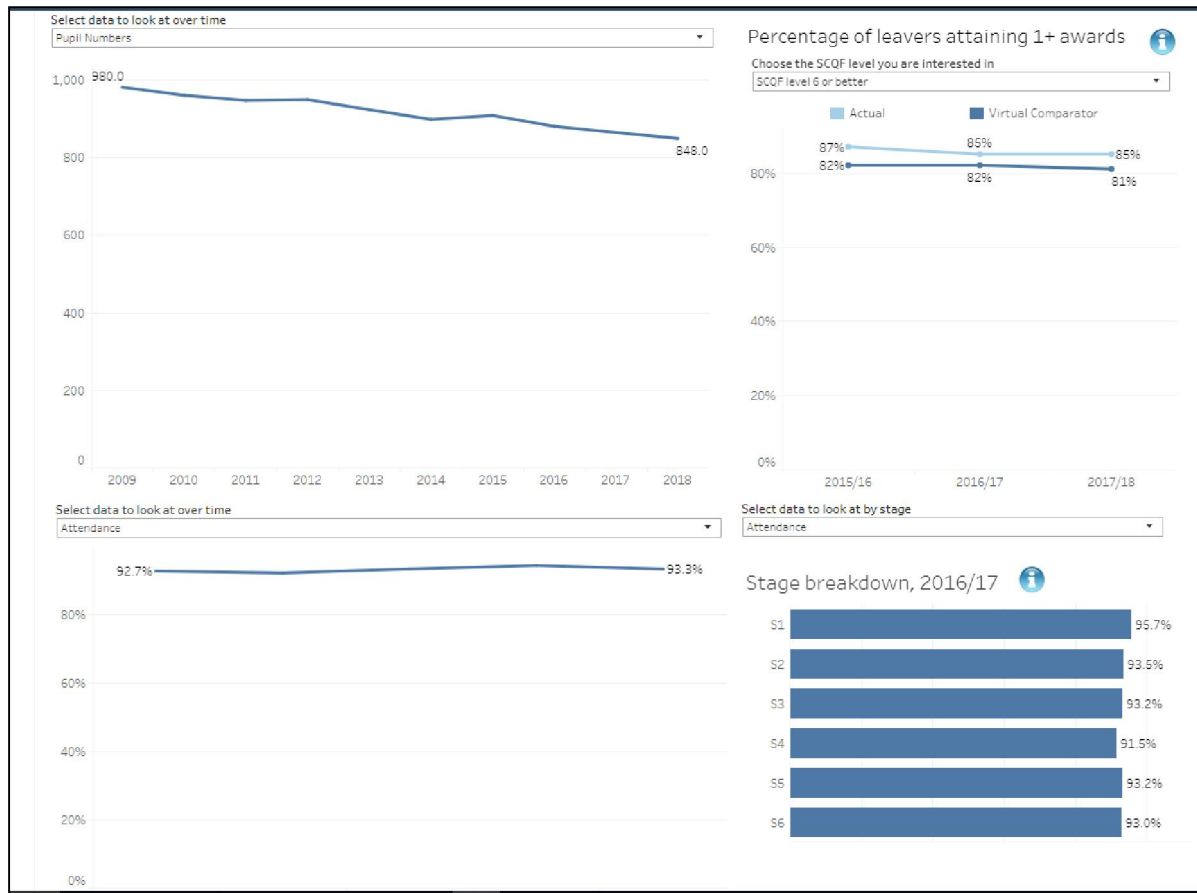
- Exam results 2018 (hand-out)
- Contact with returning pupils & re-coursing
- SQA exam results – Clerical checks and re-marks
- Twelfth Night – 10<sup>th</sup> October

### Parents as partners

- Library input
- UCAS/FE/Apprenticeship evening – 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Week beginning 30 September – S1 Form Class Leader interviews
- School information Dashboard  
<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/School%20information%20dashboard>







## Curriculum

- S4 Work Experience wb 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Freshers' Fayre – many teams/clubs up and running
- Balfron High Skills rationale
- Curriculum experience S1-6 (back page)

## School Trips for 19-20

- Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> September – S1 Team Building
- S6 AH Geography –Lochranza
- S2-6 Lockerbie music trip (Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- S4-6 Ski Trip (Feb)
- S2/3 New York (May)
- S3 Geography trip to Switzerland (May)
- S5/6 London (Nov)
- Excursion support from PVG parents

## General Updates

- S1 chromebooks – planning for wb 30 September infra-structure permitting
- Staffing Update – Retired staff – Mrs Robertson (Biology), Mrs Steele (HE)

- New staff – Ms Tully (HE)
  - 4 NQTs: Mrs Barrett (Maths), Ms Moss (Biology), Mr Hey (Geography), Ms Boyd (PE)
- School improvement Priorities 2019-20

- Based on data, observations and feedback from pupils, parents and staff.
- Parental feedback emailed and will go on website

### **Curriculum (National Priority)**

- Increased project-based learning in BGE (STEM)
- Increased SCQF level courses in senior phase

### **Communication (staff and parents)**

- Communication policy for parents/carers
- Internal procedures/protocols for staff
- Overview of assessment dates

### **Behaviour (staff, pupils, parents)**

- Review pilot
- Pivotal education input/ finalise policy (November)
- Review (November 2019 and March 2020)

### **Anti-bullying policy (staff, parents, pupils)**

- Feedback to all staff who report
- Increased use of click and go

### **ASN (staff)**

- CLPL for staff
- Differentiation of programmes and courses

### **Family Learning (parents, national priority)**

- Key things parents/carers should ask about/ do with their child (S1 courses)
- How to pass N5/Higher input

