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**BOCLAIR ACADEMY**

**Parent Council AGM**

**Monday 7.12.20 (6.30 pm by zoom)**

**Present :** Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Duncan Beattie, Paula Brown, Ruth Candy, Jacqui Clark, Elaine Dallas, Varinder Dhaliwal, Kirsteen Graham, Aileen Hamilton, Laura Lyons, Joanne McArthur, Anne McKenzie, Geoff Miles, Graham Murray, Neig Nosmoht, Adrienne Shaw, Emma Shepherd, Chris Sheerin, Susan Sinclair, Claire Taylor, Flora Thomson, Douglas Brown, Chris Brisbane, Glenn Thomson, Fiona Curran, Clare Morgan, Maxine Traynor.

**Chair**  Chris Allen

**Vice-Chair** Alison McNair

**Minutes**  Joanne McArthur

**Treasurer**  Flora Thomson

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Chris Allen opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their virtual attendance. Apologies were received from Suzanne Chase & I Lightbody.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the AGM of 23.9.2019 were proposed by Aileen Hamilton and seconded by Susan Sinclair.

Matters Arising from above : Chris Allen wanted to highlight that we will be bringing forward the issue of Charitable Status, which was originally brought to the table by Graham Murray.

**3. Financial Report**

Flora Thomson confirmed that the Parent Council had £1,138. This is broken into £511 in our own bank account and £627 is held in the school account.

We spoke about how PC would normally fund a bus for Easter revision but that will not happen this year. It was also highlighted that we will continue to raise money for a school mini bus as and when we can.

It was also discussed that additional funds could be tapped in to for additional support for School Council as the demand on finite resources is tight. More young people are requiring additional support and this all obviously costs money.

Emma Shepherd raised the issue of Primary Care. She believes this is an unmet need and we agreed that the school could speak to the Education Psychologist re. this.

**4. Head Teachers Report**

**Public Health and Covid 19 Measures**

Positive feedback received from the inspection team. All measures in place are in line with Government and EDC Guidelines are properly enforced. There are no connections between any positive cases involving pupils or staff in the school. Sanitising stations, clean as you go, one way system, blocking, tape in classrooms, masks etc – were all commended by the Team. Risks assessments across the schools were also commended.

The Team provided general areas to work on which are being shared with all schools:

* + Ventilation
  + Tidy work areas
  + Clear desks for cleaning
  + Distancing in staff bases
  + Sharing food and storing personal food next to others should be reduced
  + Where possible bringing own tea and coffee – or ensuring good hand hygiene and masks etc at all times

Regular whole school inspections by the Senior Leadership Team will take place over the coming weeks.

**Prelim arrangements**

S5/6 Prelims will take place over 3 weeks with no study leave and columns allocated to a particular week. No prelims required for S4 but opportunity to complete an assessment. The school will bring in supply to support marking and moderation activities

Self-isolating pupils may not be prelim ready

Pupils at home but also:

* Wearing masks in class
* Longer periods in class
* Bigger gaps between subject days
* Less groups work and peer support
* Online supported study
* Quality of teaching is different
* Quality of learning is different
* Two similar pupils in Boclair might perform very differently
* Two similar pupils in Scotland might perform very differently
* Nobody’s fault but needs addressed

School staff are currently considering how fair are assessments and areas such as for self-isolating pupils – how do they complete prelims?

In England the announcement was to take a more open book approach using crib sheets, allowing young people more time by reducing content and letting young people know the topics in advance to help direct their study and they will have a re-sit opportunity. The school will consider this further.

**SQA updates:**

All subjects now have an update on what is required from students this year for all the courses. For example in Science the assignment has been removed. In English on element of the folio has been removed

There is discussion nationally about the impact of covid on pupils’ preparation for Highers and Advanced Highers. We await further decisions regarding this over the next few weeks.

**Self-isolating pupils and online learning**

* Increased use of live lessons on Teams
* Work is being posted on Teams and SMHW
* The full Senior Phase courses are available on Teams
* Online supported study is helping those at home – although lots at the same time
* Ongoing assessments –some are now being sent home to be completed

**5. Confirmation of parent members & email addresses**

It was noted that we have on average around 28 people on each zoom call. Chris agreed that he had a confirmed list of all parent council members e-mail addresses. The question was raised if we had a decent spread over all year groups. One of our new S1 Parents, Geoff Miles introduced himself and said he felt that the new S1 parents had not been contacted regarding the PC meeting. Douglas Brown explained how we would normally have representatives of the Parent Council at the meeting when P7’s attend with their parents, and we would encourage the new parents to get involved, but obviously things have been a bit different this year but we will make sure the S1 parents are contact and reminded of the meeting.

**6. Election of Office Holders**

The following office holders all agreed to carry out the role for the forthcoming year:

Chris Allen – Chairperson, proposed by Joanne McArthur, seconded by Laura Lyons

Alison McNair – Vice Chair, proposed by Jacqui Clark, seconded by Ruth Candy

Joanne McArthur – Secretary, proposed by Adrienne Shaw, seconded by Claire Taylor

Treasurer – Secretary, proposed by Ruth Candy, seconded by Paula Brown

**7. Proposed Dates for future meetings**

Monday 25th January 2021 : PEFF

Monday 22nd February 2021 : Charitable Status

Monday 29th March 2021 : Active Travel

Monday 17th May 2021 : Spring Fayre

**8. Priorities for future meetings**

PEFF Money for the following year & recovery plan

Trying to get attainment as high as possible

Charitable status

Active travel – bike stations, lockers etc for everyone

**9. AOCB**

Paula Brown raised the issue of S2 choices. There will be a presentation given by DB & guidance regarding detailed courses and planning. Careers also have an input through PSE

New School – Mr Brisbane has regular meetings with architect and we will be kept updated in due course.

**Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 25th January 2021, via Zoom at 6.30 pm.**