



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 22.2.21 (6.30 pm by zoom)

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Duncan Beattie, Paula Brown, Ruth Candy, Suzanne Chase, Elaine Dallas, Kirsteen Graham, Aileen Hamilton, Fiona Lockhart, Regina Marti, Joanne McArthur, Anne McKenzie, Alison McNair, Geoff Miles, Graham Murray, Adrienne Shaw, Chris Sheerin, Claire Taylor, Flora Thomson, Douglas Brown, Chris Brisbane, Glenn Thomson, 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 Jane Paterson.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of 25.1.2021 were approved by Paula Brown and seconded by Geoff Miles.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from last minutes.

4. Update on Covid arrangements / Impact of FM's latest announcement

This will be covered during Head Teachers Report.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Senior Phase Return

Return of senior phase was the most recent priority for the school following the announcement from the Scottish Government. This was to be for no more than 5-8% of the school population to carry out practical assessments.

There remained the need to continue the main education delivery online to all young people at home. The focus departments for practical activities were Art, Music, Technical. The school planned a 2 week rotation based on our senior phase blocks - morning blocks in week 1 and afternoon blocks in week 2.

2 m distance is required at all times with transport arranged to fit the times. All pupils and staff returning to school are required to regularly test using the lateral flow test kits provided by

Next steps

We are currently awaiting an update from Scottish Government about a fuller return from 15th March. Initial indications are that this is likely to be more senior phase pupils to allow work on National Qualifications. All senior phase pupils and staff required to regularly test when returning to the building. Materials related to this will be sent out to all staff and senior phase pupils. The school has taken the decision to post out tests initially.

Course planning

Information evenings have been arranged with individual online interviews for all pupils. Following discussions at home pupils and parents can then submit their choices online.

We are currently aiming for a new timetable early in June with a provisional S6 leaving date some at the end of May. This is still to be finalised. We are currently discussing end of S6 activities with the head boy and girl.

Reporting

Senior phase reports will be completed this week. These reports will provide an indication of where pupils are currently sitting with provisional awards. Reports are more basic than normal due to staff working from home and having no access to the school Information Management System. Teachers are getting some additional time to complete the reports. Reporting in this way is more than other schools are being expected to deliver based on EDC advice. Following S4 – S6 Reports, reports will be completed for S2 and S3.

SQA

We are receiving regular updates ongoing from SQA. There is an increasing recognition of the impact of Covid 19 on young people preparing for National Qualifications with SQA starting to accept not all assessments can be completed. The final deadline for submission of provisional awards is now 25th June. This should give 6 weeks of assessment time over April and May, with time in June for moderation and for final catch ups.

Pupil Council

The Pupil Council met last week online. There was discussion around online learning, wellbeing, and what more could be done to make things more normal such as online clubs.

Transitions

Transition work started with all primary schools. An online open evening event has been launched and a programme agreed with associated primary schools for other events

Responses to questionnaires

D Brown provided an overview of feedback from parents following the recent questionnaire. The feedback has been extremely positive with almost all parents agreeing that the online provision from Boclair has been good.

We have had the subject of Charitable Trust on the Agenda for some time now, and one of our members Graham Murray gave us a very interesting and in-depth presentation on the pro's and con's of Parent Council becoming a Charitable Trust. Graham is a Lawyer in a Private Practice and has experience of dealing with setting up charities.

He spoke about 2 possible routes we could go down either (a) our Parent Council becoming a charitable trust or (b) setting up a group "Friends of Boclair" which would be more suitable if we were going to use this for JustGiving pages etc.

One of the reasons we were thinking about becoming a Charitable Trust is that it is more attractive to potential donors, and that Parent Council would receive Gift Aid on any money made. There are obviously legal rules that need to be adhered to in order to gain charitable status, one of them being that every member would need to be a trustee, and this would all need to be formalised and made very clear in the constitution.

Graham advised the meeting that the process can have a lead-in time of anything up to 6 months to gain status.

Chris Allen thanked Graham for a very informative presentation and advised that we will talk about it again in due course as this may be something that will be more of an interest as the new build school starts to build momentum.

Zoom On-line chat messages:

Alison McNair asked if it is likely that S6 will be able to plan a year book and/or hoodies. Douglas Brown indicated that the hoodies would not be a problem, and suggested that they will probably use Academy Uniforms for the hoodies as the school has a great working relationship with them already as they supply our school blazers. DB is due to have a meeting with his Head Boy Fraser and Head Girl Emily to discuss this very soon. The issue of a Year Book is more difficult as a very small team of pupils are relying on a very large number of pupils getting information, photographs submitted to the team involved in order that this can be done. Ms Morgan indicated that the school had offered the S6's the option of doing an "in house" version, but the pupils have specifically said if doing it, they wanted the "all singing, all dancing version". There are a couple of options we can try and pursue, but will report back at our next meeting, if possible.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 29th March 2021, via Zoom at 6.30 pm.