



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 17.5.21 (6.30 pm by zoom)

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Duncan Beattie, Ruth Candy, Suzanne Chase, Elaine Dallas, Aileen Hamilton, Fiona Lockhart, Regini Marti, Joanne McArthur, Geoff Miles, 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 Graham Murray and Anne McKenzie.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of 29.3.2021 were approved by Chris Anderson and seconded by Regini Marti.

3. Matters Arising

There was a small typo in the Assessments paragraph. First paragraph, last line should have read 21 assessments for S4.

Chris Brisbane informed the meeting that he was unable to furnish us with an update on Active but advised that he will have this for our next meeting. Chris Allen advised that he is due to have a meeting with Jacqui McDonald and that he was going to ask Emma Shepherd to join that meeting. Chris also advised that he is going to have a meeting with Vaughan Moody before the meeting with J MacDonald.

4. Head Teacher's Report

Assessments

We continue to work through our S4, S5 and S6 Assessments. In line with SQA advice assessments have been broken down into manageable chunks. This is helping pupils in their approach to studying and managing the assessment load. On average this is looking like two or three assessments per child per subject over a five week period e.g. around 21 assessments for S5, 15 assessments for S5 and 12 for S6.

There have been well publicised issues with the Alternative Certification Model

- Impact of 4 months out of full school
- Leaks of papers

- Tiktok and SQA Discord
- Pressure on pupils
- Covid 19 and self-isolation
- Lack of information on Appeals from SQA

Teachers will mark, moderate and finalise grades by Friday 4th June. SLT will further moderate and quality assure during week commencing Monday 7th June. EDC require grades to be submitted for EDC moderation by Friday 11th June. Pupils are likely to be issued with their final provisional awards week commencing Monday 14th June. Final submission to SQA has to be made by Friday 25th June. Boclair closes on Thursday 24th June – grades will need to be submitted by lunchtime on 24th June.

Schools have been informed that SQA will provide additional assessment opportunities up to the 3rd September. There are some issues with that:

- Preparation for assessments over the summer is problematic
- Leaks of papers
- New timetable will have started
- Lack of information on appeals

Moderation

Moderation is going well in school. Meetings with all PTs took place over the course of last week to review progress. The meetings were positive and all PTs were focused on getting the best outcomes possible for young people within the context of SQA advice.

Track and Trace

There have been a small number of positive cases within the school linked to different year groups. As a result we have had around 100 pupils sent home to self-isolate over the course of the last three weeks. There remains no evidence of in school transmission.

Updated Guidance

We are awaiting further Guidance from Scottish Government as we move from Level 3 to Level 2. At the moment the current Guidance remains in place.

Staffing

At the time of the last meeting we were recruiting for a Teacher of Physics, a Teacher of Chemistry, a Teacher of Biology, an acting Principal Teacher of Biology and an acting Principal Teacher of Geography.

All posts have now been filled:

Miss Skelly – PT Biology
 Miss Duncan – PT Geography and RE
 Miss Lynch – Teacher of Biology
 Miss Lynch – Teacher of Biology
 Mr Carson – Teacher of Chemistry
 Miss Buckley – Teacher of Physics

Further posts are now required in Business, History and Art – we are awaiting details of NQT prior to advertising posts.

New School

All the steel is now in place and the structure is ready for the floors, walls and glass work to begin. Pictures highlighted on the PPT presentation to follow.

VSE

The school took part in a Voluntary Self Evaluation exercise with East Dunbartonshire Council on Care Experienced Young People. The Chief Education Officer was very positive about the work being carried out in Boclair for all pupils and in particular for young people who are care experienced

Planned new TT

It is likely we will move to new timetable on the 7th June.

DofE update

Pupils have been continuing to complete their physical, skills and volunteering elements and logging this on-line in their DofE records. DofE during Covid is "DofE with a Difference" and volunteering can be done in a different way e.g. can now tutor a sibling.

Expeditions: These have been on hold. Pupils can do expeditions and return home every night, but EDC are not doing this as the EDC Outdoor Instructors want pupils to get the full experience and camp overnight. Practice expeditions can now be used as qualifiers cutting down on the number. We are currently awaiting expedition dates from EDC. Currently we have 7 pupils signed up for Gold. Deadlines for completion have been extended.

5. School improvement Plan & Feedback

Chris Allan asked Mr Brisbane about the FB page on the new build, and asked if it had been updated. Mr Brisbane advised that the art department are responsible for updating this, and will check and see that this is currently happening.

Those in attendance at the meeting broke into small groups to discuss the School Improvement Plan. In groups we had to identify from our priorities for the session, what has gone well and how have the pupils benefitted from it. We also discussed, what should be included in our plan for next session and what would we see as the benefit of this for pupils? The findings of this exercise will be given at our next meeting.

6. AOCB

As this was our last meeting of the term, Chris Anderson on behalf of all the Parent Council, offered our heartfelt thanks to Chris Allen for his sterling efforts as Chairperson. We are extremely grateful for the many hours he puts in attending numerous meetings on our behalf. We also wanted to thank Aileen Hamilton, Alison McNair and Anne McKenzie who will all be leaving the Parent Council as they will no longer have children at the School. Again, the PC thanked all departing parents for their sterling contributions over many years, and wished them well for the future.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be our A.G.M. and this date will be organised in the new term.