



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 07.11.22 (6.30 pm – in person)

Present: Chris Allen, Duncan Beattie, Ruth Candy, William Clark, Elaine Dallas, Dominic Gonzalez, Jenny Kerr, Joanne McArthur, Geoff Miles, Jill McIntyre, Jillian Mooney, Graham Murray, Chris Sheerin, Claire Taylor, Flora Thomson.

Staff: Douglas Brown, Glenn Thomson, Clare Morgan, Maxine Trainor, Fiona Curran and Nick Walsh.

Chair Geoff Miles
Vice-Chair Ruth Candy
Minutes Joanne McArthur
Treasurer Flora Thomson

1. Welcome & Apologies

Geoff Miles opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Apologies were received from Kristeen Graham, Fiona Lockhart and Varinder Dhaliwal. As our last meeting was the AGM we then had resignations tendered from Susan Sinclair, Regina Marti, Jacqui Clark and Adrienne Shaw. Again, Geoff made mention of the people who had resigned as they no longer had children in the school and thanked them again for their input to many years on the Parent Council. He also welcomed Dominic Gonzalez to his first Parent Council meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the AGM of 11.10.2022 were approved by Graham Murray and seconded by Chris Sheerin. Head Teacher report to be added before putting on website.

3. Matters Arising

Having previously agreed to explore maximising use of the Parents' Portal and School website, this action was carried over to become an ongoing element within Parental Engagement discussions and actions.

4. Treasurer's Summary

Flora Thomson confirmed again that the money held by the school for PC is £1,308.08. This money is held over two accounts, one in the name of Parent Council and one within the school's bank account. Flora confirmed that Clerk Fees etc. are paid directly into the school account, and this money is generally used for the payment of Easter Revision Buses etc. We will look at the money that is in this account and discuss at a later date, what the school would like us to use this money for.

As this is Flora's last year as treasurer she highlighted it would be good to have someone to "shadow" her this year, with the view of taking this role over next year. This is **not** an onerous role, there is very little activity on the money side of Parent Council. However it does take a bit of time for the bank to sort out new signatories etc, so a new treasurer to shadow this role would be **VERY** welcome. Please consider helping us out. No financial experience is necessary.

5. Parental Engagement

Discussion was made regarding PC being represented at various meetings in the school with a view to having a wide representation of all year groups across the group. It was agreed that PC would host a "stall" at all parents' nights, and also the suggestion of a "joined up" PC group with our Cluster Schools would be a great idea.

There is an Open Evening on 17th November, and PC will be represented to welcome any parents who may wish to join the group. PC will attend information evenings, and network with parents – volunteers welcome!

CT asked about the Parent council minutes being published on the website? It was agreed that PC will have a direct contact to a member of staff within the school to ensure minutes are uploaded onto website and any other information needing highlighted. JM raised the question about accessibility of the minutes. It was suggested that we could perhaps bullet point certain aspects raised and have them put out via twitter. The option of Audio Accessibility was also raised and Geoff undertook to raise this at the next EDC Parent Council Forum.

Chair was keen for us to have a short survey sent to parents to ask a maximum of 4/5 questions of what parents want from us. DB agreed when he is sending out his next parent survey, we will input questions as part of this survey.

6. Head Teacher's Report

New Building

The pupils and staff are settling well into the new building and engaging with the many opportunities the new building offers young people. Parents will have further opportunities to tour the school during family learning week during week commencing 14th November.

There is an issue with the temporary car park with many parents entering the car park to drop their children off rather than dropping them on Inveroran Drive. The school is in discussion with the Major Asset Project Team and Health and Safety about how to resolve this issue but the HT asked for Parent Council support in encouraging parents to drop children off on Inveroran Drive rather than entering the school grounds.

The plans for phase 2, which includes all landscaping, were available for Parent Council to look at and will be shared electronically in due course.

Parents Nights

The Parents' Evenings are now in person using the Project Space, the Assembly Hall and the Canteen. The HT thanked Geoff for attending the S5/6 Parents' Evening and sharing the work of the Parent Council.

Business Brunch

D Brown highlighted the upcoming Business brunch on 6th December and extended the invitation to members of the Parent Council.

Pathways

Following discussion of developing the young workforce it was agreed that this would be a topic of the HT Report at the next meeting. A successful parents' UCAS event took place last week. Following discussion of the event, it was acknowledged that approaching this activity with younger year groups earlier in their school life would be helpful. The Senior Phase Pathways event takes place next week for parents and the following week for pupils.

SQA Results

The majority of the HT Report focussed on SQA attainment. The high level messages are included below:

- Literacy and Numeracy attainment for all young people is consistently higher than the Virtual Comparator for all year groups and for leavers.
- Overall attainment of all young people, including lowest attaining 20%, middle attaining 60% and highest attaining 20%, was above the national attainment measures, the virtual comparator attainment measures and almost always above the EDC attainment measures.
- Overall young people from lowest SIMD deciles performed above the nation, local and virtual comparator attainment.
- Overall S4 attainment at National 5 A-C was very high with 69% of young people attaining 5 or more awards compared to 84% of young people attaining 5 or more awards in the Virtual Comparator.
- Overall S5 attainment at Higher A-C was very high with 40% of young people attaining 5 or more awards compared to 24% of young people attaining 5 or more awards in the Virtual comparator.
- Overall S6 attainment at Higher A-C was very high with 55% of young people attaining 5 or more awards compared to 42% of young people attaining 5 or more awards in the Virtual comparator.
- 33 young people achieved 5A passes at Higher by the end of S5 and 54 young people achieved 5A passes or more at N5 by the end of S4.

Overall the attainment in this year's SQA exams is extremely positive.

SQA Appeals

175 successful appeals adding to the results profile of the school. Highest number in EDC – meaning strong evidence went in. This has impacted well on a number of young people.

7. Suggested topics for future discussions

- Could contact be made for past pupils/parents to come to the school and talk to young people about how they found the process of things like UCAS applications/personal statements, what worked well/what could have been done earlier etc, basically eliminating any surprises.
- Networking with willing parents
- RC spoke about bringing in parents and/or businesses to speak to pupils about their choices very early on in their schooling e.g., S3. A bit more in-depth about a wider range of jobs and what they would need to study.
- DB then intimated that there was a Business Brunch meeting coming up (6th December) and he would organise for PC to be in attendance at that.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Monday 5th December 2022.

9. AOCB

Mention was made of the recent UCAS evening, it was very well received. Discussion ensued regarding the Senior Pupils' Personal Statements. As Volunteering can be a large part of this, it was suggested that volunteering be discussed with pupils as early as S4 in order that this could be included in personal statements. CM agreed to take this on board.

DBeattie spoke about asking former pupils to come in and talk about their experiences and their perceptions of the whole process of applications etc.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 5th December 2022 at 6.30 pm in School.