



**BOCLAIR ACADEMY**  
**Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday 05.12.22 (6.30 pm – in person)**

**Present:** Claire Arthur, Ruth Candy, Dominic Gonzalez, Kirsteen Graham, Fiona Lockhart, Conor McAuley, Joanne McArthur, Geoff Miles, Chris Sheerin, Flora Thomson.

**Staff:** Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Emily Hossack, Clare Morgan, Sara Robertson, Glenn Thomson, Maxine Traynor, 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 : Duncan Beattie, William Clark, Elaine Dallas, Jenny Kerr, Jill McIntyre, Jillian Mooney, Graham Murray and Claire Taylor. It was noted that EDC had their Music Ensemble this evening hence the large number of apologies due to parents attending.

He also welcomed Claire Arthur and Conor McAuley to their first Parent Council meeting.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of 7.11.2022 were approved by Ruth Candy and seconded by Flora Thomson. Head Teacher report will be added before putting on website.

**3. Matters Arising**

DB intimated that Carol McDonald would be our contact at the school for posting minutes on the Website etc and any other Parent Council related matters.

**4. Treasurer's Summary & Post Holder nomination**

Flora Thomson confirmed again that the money held by the school for PC is £1,308.08. We discussed if we needed to keep both bank accounts, but it was confirmed if Parent Council were to apply for any grants in the future, we would need to have an independent bank account for this. It was confirmed that Elaine Dallas has very kindly agreed to take over the role of Treasurer when Flora Thomson leaves. It was agreed that Flora will discuss with Elaine and Elaine can shadow any events with Flora for the rest of the school term. Discussion arose regarding the fact the bank account needs two signatories. Going forward it was suggested that Elaine Dallas and Geoff Miles would be the two signatories. Flora will get this sorted with the bank in due course.

## 5. Parental Engagement- Group Exercise

Parents in attendance split into two groups to carry out an exercise and discuss parental engagement with the school. A summary of the points discussed are listed below:

### What types of information do you need to tell the school?

- Absences
- Concerns regarding your child(ren) – health, anxieties/bullying/AHD/Bereavement
- Any changed in family circumstances
- Any medical conditions/allergies
- Any issues/concerns
- Study concerns: streaming of classes, social concerns , exam choices, task clarification & support

### How do you currently do this?

- Phone – via guidance teacher, subject teacher or year head
- Email
- Parent Portal
- Text
- Web Form
- Mail (post)
- Twitter

### What information do you currently receive from the school?

- School Updates
- Parents Nights
- Information form Education Authorities
- Events
- TEAMS information
- Newsletters
- Surveys
- Immunisations
- Strikes
- Parent Council Meeting
- Show my Homework

### How do you receive this?

- Email
- Text
- TEAMS
- Website
- Twitter
- Phone call

### What would be your ideal methods of communicating with the school? (2-way)

*Email*

Parent Council asked for it to be noted that they found it very beneficial when you get a text prompt alerting you to an email from the Head Teacher or School Authorities. This immediately prompts you to go and read the notification.

## 6. Careers Provision at Boclair – Presentation

Emily Hossack and Sara Ferguson both gave very informative presentations on Career Paths and provision of careers resources for Boclair Pupils from S1 through to S6. This gave a wonderful insight into the planning and opportunities available to our pupils.

This presentation can be viewed at *(insert location / link)*

## 7. Head Teacher's Report

### Industrial Action

Due to ongoing pay negotiations and national level, three Professional Associations gave notice to employers of Strike action in December and again in January. All East Dunbartonshire schools have been affected by Strike action with all schools closed on Thursday 24th November. All secondary schools will now also be closed on Wednesday 7th December. It is likely that all schools in East Dunbartonshire will also be closed on Friday 20th January as part of a 16 days of strike action by the EIS.

As a result of the strike, the S1 Parents Evening was cancelled. Following the publication of the S1 Reports and individual interviews with young people by their Guidance teacher, the Guidance Team will now make phone call appointments to all S1 parents to discuss their progress so far and where required there will be an in school meeting arranged for individual parents.

As a result of the next strike the S5/S6 dance will be cancelled. It may be possible to re-arrange the dance but with the busy calendar this may not be possible.

The January strike day falls within our Senior Phase Prelim diet. We have changed the prelim plan to avoid any prelims falling on that day.

### Staffing update

Two new Maths teachers have started with us following the departure of Joy Brockway - Kate Sadi and Olivia Myers. Both will work in the Maths Department and also support individuals and small groups with Maths and numeracy in our BLR resources.

Two new PE teachers have joined us following the departure of C Brisbane and F Matheson - Aiden O'halleron and Amy Martin.

We have a new Biology teacher in post who is covering for an absent teacher - Caroline McPhillips

We have appointed three new Principal Teachers to support our equity work. Amanda Daly will focus on equity and wellbeing, Nicky Carson will focus on equity and numeracy, and Nathalie Mathers will focus on equity and literacy. They will also support young people more generally and ensure areas such as breakfast club and set-up continue to function well

We are currently recruiting for a permanent Principal Teacher of STEM and DYW, a post currently held by Sara Robertson.

We are also currently recruiting for a temporary Depute Head Teacher to replace Chris Brisbane. The post will be made permanent in June next year.

We are also currently recruiting for a permanent Principal Teacher of Guidance following the addition of a permanent PTG into our promoted post structure. This has allowed us to continue with our plans to change the Guidance structure in January. Emily Hossack is currently acting PT Guidance in the post

We recently recruited two new SLAs to work within our Support for Learning team - inset name and insert name

We are currently recruiting for a Science technician and a 0.5 Senior technician. The current vacancies are limiting the service to the three science departments.

We are currently short staffed in the Office and in our Classroom Assistant Team - recruitment is underway for a School Support Manager and a clerical assistant

## **School Christmas Programme**

### **November**

Since we last met as a Parent Council a number of events have taken place. Our Positive Pathways Information Evening took place on Thursday 10th November where a range of colleges, training providers and employers, along with SDS, visited the school to help parents understand the range of pathways open to their children. A similar Positive Pathways event was held for pupils on Thursday 17th November. These events built on the earlier UCAS event for parents of S5 and S6 pupils and parents on 27th October.

We held our Armistice Assembly on 11th November with school Captains leading the remembrance activities at a whole school teams assembly. A minute's silence was held at 11 o'clock. We also welcomed all EDC Primary Head Teachers to the school for a Primary Head Teacher meeting on the 11th November.

Two Family learning events took place in November - our S1 - S3 event on 14th November and our S4 - S6 event on 16th November. The events were a mixture of tours and workshops delivered by key staff in the school. Our P7 Open evening took place on Thursday 17th November and was the busiest one we have ever had. Parents and children who came along spent time touring the school and visiting departments to take part in learning activities. Our Flu vaccinations took place for all staff and pupils on 28th November with a mop up taking place on 6th December for anyone who missed it. Following discussion with Parent Council, an additional S4 and S5 Higher Education Pathways evening was held last Thursday to introduce planning for university to parents.

### **December**

It continues to be a busy time of year with a number of events planned. The S3 and S4 dance is planned for Tuesday 6th December although ticket sales are very low and it may not go ahead. The S5 and S5 dance was planned for the 7th December but this has been impacted by the strike. We are currently trying to change the date but with so many events and low number of tickets sold it may not go ahead. The S1/S2 Christmas dance will take place on Monday 12th December. Our Christmas concert will take place on Thursday 15th December and our Dance show will take place on Tuesday 20th December. Our S1-S3 Cinema Rewards trip will take place on Tuesday 20th of December and our S4-S6 Cinema trip will take place on Wednesday 21st December. Young musician of the year will take place on Wednesday 21st December and our Christmas Service will take place on Thursday 22nd December. The school closes to pupils at 2.30 on 22nd December.

### **Prelim arrangements and supports**

For the first time since 2020 we are running a more traditional Prelim diet, with young people taking formal prelims during the two weeks from 16th January to 27th January. EIS have indicated they will strike on Friday 20th January and therefore no prelims have been arranged for that day. The Prelim schedule will be published for pupils and parents tomorrow following review at this meeting by Parent Council.

The Prelims will take place in two main areas of the school - the Gym Hall and the Assembly Hall. Other areas of the school will be used for specific exams and for those young people with Alternative Assessment arrangements which require separate accommodation or access to ICT.

SQA Invigilators will help run the exams in order to provide an SQA type of experience for young people as part of their overall preparations for May. Principal Teachers have discussed the types of supports they will add to this prelim diet to reflect the stage of the course the young people are currently at. Such supports may include adjusted timings, support notes, an indication of the topics that will be examined etc. This approach was very successful last year at this time.

This is also an ideal time to gather Alternative Assessment Arrangement evidence for young people with additional support needs to receive the appropriate assessment arrangements for the final exams in May.

Our BLR team is currently supporting our young people to develop their study skills and this is being reinforced through class teachers. We also have a comprehensive Supported Study Programme running up until Christmas. We do not yet have a budget for this to continue after the prelims but will try to ensure this happens.

### **Guidance change update**

We have continued to work towards our Guidance structure change. Having discussed this with staff, pupils and parents, an overview of pupil support was sent to all parents in October and the Guidance Team are now contacting parents of young people for whom transitions require additional work. The new Guidance Teachers will be in place from January but they will continue to work closely with other members of the team who have had year group responsibilities up to this point.

### **Carpark Update**

Following discussion at the last Parent Council a great deal of progress has been made on issues with the temporary car park. A new bus queuing system, with temporary fencing and gates, has been installed to enhance the safety of young people using the carpark. All pupils have been reminded to use the path and not walk through the car park. New temporary lighting has been installed along the top path which has been very dark recently. A further email has been sent out to parents asking them to avoid dropping off or picking up in the car park. Two new banks men have been recruited to limit entry at busy times at the start and end of the day. New temporary signage is being prepared to help with the traffic flow. The car park use has been much better over the last two weeks even without the new banksmen. D Brown thanked Parent Council for their support with this.

### **8. Suggested topics for future discussions**

Due to time constraints this will be carried forward to our next meeting.

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

### **10. AOCB**

Geoff Miles advised that he recently attended a Parent Council Forum which gave extremely helpful information on Mental Health Strategy – Including counselling and ASN Supports in Schools and Centres. Report by Jackie Swan, Quality Improvement Manager. Links to information given will follow for inclusion on school website.

Graham Murray asked that it be intimated that the school recently hosted a number events for S1-S6 parents, and also the recent open evenings. It had been fed back to ask the PC to thank all staff for their time and efforts as all these evenings were in person and have all been very welcome and great success after a couple of years of Zoom meetings.

**The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 6.30 pm. This may be a Zoom meeting, but confirmation will follow in due course.**