

**BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting**



Monday 23.01.23 (6.30 pm – in person)

Present: Ruth Candy, Varinder Dhaliwal, Kirsteen Graham, Jenny Kerr, Fiona Lockhart, Joanne McArthur, Jill McIntyr, Geoff Miles, Jillian Mooney, Chris Sheerin, Claire Taylor, Susan Rae.

Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran and Nick Walsh.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Geoff Miles opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Apologies : Duncan Beattie, William Clark, Elaine Dallas, Dominic Gonzalez, Conor McAuley, Chris Allen and Flora Thomson.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 5.12.2022 were approved by Kirsteen Graham and seconded by Jenny Kerr. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

3. Matters Arising

No matters highlighted.

4. Suggested topics for future discussions

- Mental Health Awareness
- School Improvements Plans (including landscaping etc.)
- Arrangements for where buses will park in new Car Park
- Date for meeting with Active Travel Counsellor Allan Smith

5. Head Teacher's Report

HMIE good practice visit

Education Scotland Inspectors will visit the school on Tuesday 24th January along with 3 Inspectors from other European countries. The central focus is on skills development and wellbeing. During the visit, the Inspectors will tour the school. Meet with pupils, meet with staff and meet with partners. They will then meet with the Senior Leadership. Boclair Academy was chosen as a good practice school in the chosen areas.

Staffing update

A number of vacancies currently exist within the school with a number of recent appointments having also been made.

Appointments:

- Two new Science Technicians have been recruited and will start over the coming weeks.

- Mrs Thomson has joined the Senior Leadership Team as acting DHT with responsibility for S5 on secondment until June 2023. This is a temporary replacement for Mr Brisbane and the post will be advertised permanently in May.
- Mr Muir has taken up the acting PT Maths post for a few weeks while recruitment takes place for the Acting PT Maths post which will last until June

Vacancies:

- The School Support Manager Interviews will take place in February
- Recruitment for a Senior Technician Post (0.5) is currently underway
- Recruitment for a PT Equity post is currently underway
- Recruitment for a Technical Technician is currently underway
- Recruitment for an acting PT Maths post is currently underway
- Recruitment for two classroom assistant posts is currently underway
- Recruitment for a Clerical Assistant post is currently underway

SQA and Prelim Updates

S4-S6 Prelims are now into the second week. This is the first set of Prelims to be held in the school since January 2020 and young people in the Senior Phase have been given Study Leave to help support their preparations. We are using the SQA Invigilation Team to run the Prelims to give young people the opportunity to experience working with them ahead of the exams in May. We have used the Assembly Hall and the Gym Hall for this set of exams. Following review of this, it is likely that the Games Hall will be used for the May exam diet.

SQA have continued with the approach to last year's examinations by maintaining the modifications put in place to support Covid recovery. However, there has been no update yet on whether or not there will be an appeals process for the upcoming exam diet.

Equity Update

N Walsh presented on the ongoing work of the Equity Team. The range of Equity Interventions supported through PEF include the following:

- A PEF DHT has been recruited to lead our approaches to Equity and to manage the use of PEF in ensuring we continue to close the attainment gap.
- Currently we have three Principal Teachers of Equity, one supporting Literacy, one supporting numeracy and one supporting Health and Wellbeing.
- We continue to provide food parcels for some of our most vulnerable families. We also provided a Christmas Hamper to 80 families again this year.
- We continue to provide free toast for all young people every interval. This has a positive impact on wellbeing in a range of ways.
- We continue to provide breakfast club first thing in the morning every day.
- We are using PEF to enhance the Local Authority allocation to ensure a full range of supported study sessions are available to all our young people. We also provide free buses to ensure all young people can access the supported study sessions.
- We continue to support young people who are poverty impacted on school trips.
- Our Setup Room is well stocked with important resources for young people.
- We have a well-resourced Equity Room to support targeted curriculum interventions with young people for whom poverty is a barrier to learning. In particular, the focus is on Literacy and Numeracy.
- We are currently planning our Easter School provision, which will help support our Closing the Gap approaches.
- We are currently planning our Study Weekend for the weekend prior to the start of the exams.

Curriculum planning process S2-S6

Our Curriculum Planning process is about to get underway. D Brown provided a time line of key dates outlining the process. These dates included Information Evenings, Careers Conference, Principal Teacher Carousel,

Curriculum Planning interviews with Guidance and Options return dates. In line with previous years all information related to the curriculum planning will be posted on the website. Timeline discussed.

Guidance change update

D Brown reminded the Parent Council that the Guidance structure has changed. The following is a brief overview of the new responsibilities:

Classes	PT Guidance
1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6A, 6G and 5A (Thurs & Friday)	Miss Emily Hossack
1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 6B and 5B (Thurs & Friday)	Mrs Jenny Gillespie
1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 6C and 5C (Thurs & Friday)	Mr Alastair McClure
1D, 2D, 3D, 4D, 5D, 6D	Ms Suzanne Smy (Mondays) Mrs Jennifer McRae (Tuesday - Friday)
1E, 2E, 3E, 4E, 6E and 5E (Thurs & Friday)	Mrs Isobel McGhee
1F, 2F, 3F, 4F, 6F and 5F (Thurs & Friday)	Miss Suzanne Hackett
5A, 5B, 5C, 5E, 5F	Miss Suzanne Smy (Mondays – Wednesdays)

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th February 2023 – probably on TEAMS.

7. AOCB

- Parent Council wanted to thank the school for the many events/activities that were held before Christmas, ie Dance show, Christmas Concert etc.
- It was suggested that we make more use of the social media output – uploading photographs of such events etc.
- The quality and breadth of recent Social Media output from throughout the school was acknowledged and thanks passed on to staff for efforts in generating this.
- The school had provided PC with a Curriculum Planning Timeline which was very helpful & gave a good insight of what is planned for the next month or so at school.
- The question was asked if the school were planning on holding another set of prelims but it was confirmed this was not the intention. DB did explain that individual departments may do further revision and tests, but definitely not another prelim.

Commented [JM1]:

The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 20th February at 6.30 pm. This may be an online meeting, but confirmation will follow in due course.