



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 20.02.23 (6.30 pm – TEAMS)

Present: Chris Allen, Ruth Candy, Elaine Dallas, Dominic Gonzalez, Kirsteen Graham, Jenny Kerr, Joanne McArthur, Jill McIntyre, Geoff Miles, Chris Sheerin, Claire Taylor, Flora Thomson. Cllr Gallagher
Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Clair Morgan, Glenn Thomson, Maxine Trainor.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Geoff Miles opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their virtual attendance.
Apologies: Varinder Dhaliwal & Fiona Lockhart.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 23.1.2023 were approved by Ruth Candy and seconded by Dominic Gonzalez. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

3. Matters Arising

Geoff Miles advised that he is still awaiting information of the Mental Health Awareness Session he attended and is very keen to share the content with the group. He suggested we get the presenter to come and present at one of our meetings. Geoff will update us regarding this at our next meeting further to discussion with Councillor Gallagher.

4. School Website observations and suggestions

It was noted that the school website was not being used to its full potential. There were various sections of the website that had not been updated for a very long time. In particular the 3 prominent banners on the front page of the website show Boclair's Values, Improvement Plans, and Show my Homework. It was agreed that perhaps the SMHW Banner could be replaced with information on Transitioning to Boclair. DG queried who "owned" the website. DB intimated that there are sections of the website that are run by EDC, and others that are populated by the school. Douglas intimated that due to administration staff shortages at Boclair, the website is probably one of the areas that has not received their immediate attention. Parent Council agreed that we would look at the website and liaise with the school with suggestions on areas that need updated, replaced or otherwise.

It was asked if there was a way that all the other social media news platforms could be fed back to the website so that it reflected what was being disseminated to parents regarding these other platforms.

Geoff asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a small sub-committee who could look at the website and feed back to the school ideas for the website. Ruth Candy and Claire Taylor agreed to take on this role, with additional input from Chris Sheerin. Geoff then asked members of Parent Council to have a look at the website and feed back to him, in the first instance, of any suggestions they may have for improving or items needing deleted. He asked that this is done in the next week or so, in order that this can be addressed before the next meeting.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Curriculum planning process

The process is underway with Information Evening completed. There was a good turnout at all the events but it was not full. Feedback sought from Parent Council on whether events such as this should be online in future. This session, with the new school it was felt that it was important to invite parents in and tours were offered at all the events. It may be that in future this changes to an online event.

We are currently interviewing all pupils to discuss curriculum pathways for next session. This started with S3 today and will continue over the next two weeks. The process will be completed by the beginning of March following which timetabling will commence.

Staffing update and Workforce Planning

D Brown updated the Parent Council on staffing:

- Mrs Hamilton is currently absent from the Maths Department. The timetable has been adjusted and Ms Mann has joined us short term to cover Mrs Hamilton.
- Our two new Science Technicians have both started – Ms Purdon and Mr MacLeod.
- Ms Fountain has joined us in PE to support the ongoing work of the Departments.
- Recruitment continues for clerical and school assistant posts.
- Recruitment continues for Technical Technician post
- Interviews take place over the next two weeks for PT Guidance

Workforce planning is now underway for next session. This is aligned to curriculum planning to help optimise the curriculum offer for young.

SQA Update

We have received further information from SQA regarding this year's results process. Parent Council are aware that the adjustments made to courses as a result of Covid 19 remain in place. The additional support for young people put in place this time last year has been removed from the process.

SQA recently communicated with schools that the Appeals process put in place for last year's exams has been removed from the process this year. The marking review process that was in place the previous years has replaced it. This means the additional comfort of SQA reviewing evidence of pupil attainment from throughout the year has been removed. The exceptional circumstance process has been reinstated in line with pre-Covid 19 years.

Feedback from HMIE visit

We were recently visited by HMIE and inspectors from Sweden and the Netherlands. They undertook a learning walk followed by stakeholder meetings with young people, staff and partners. During the walk round they outlined to the European Inspectors that the reason for visiting Boclair was related to it being a good practice school and that other schools should aspire to our provision.

The following feedback was received from HMIE after their visit:

My sincere thanks for your contribution yesterday to the Standing International Conference of Inspectorates (SICI) Project Supervision of education related to the development of civic values and skills. Our Swedish and Dutch colleagues were so impressed by everything they saw and heard about yesterday. The programme linked so well with areas we had covered on Monday and the opportunities to engage with young people, partners and staff allowed us to 'triangulate' very well. The young people are a credit to Boclair Academy and I cannot thank you all enough. Robert and I were equally impressed and I'm sure you will receive even more enquires as we will be highlighting your approach to the wider sector.

School Improvement

The following School Improvement Priorities were outlined and discussed along with the work of the School Improvement Groups

Priorities:

Priority 1	Leadership and career long professional learning
Priority 2	Improving health and wellbeing and promoting positive relationships
Priority 3	Improving learning, teaching and assessment with a particular focus on digital learning
Priority 4	Raising attainment & achievement and closing the attainment gap
Priority 5	Planning for the new school

School Improvement – Professional Learning Groups

Mental Health Strategy Group	Mr Turner/Miss McKinley
Promoting Equity	Miss Robertson/Ms Mathers
Promoting Positive Relationships Group/RRSA	Miss Skelly/Miss Scott
Digital Learning Group	Mr Sharp/Mr Porter
Learning and Teaching Group	Mrs Black/Miss Dorian
Outdoor Learning	Miss Duncan/Miss Lynch
Curriculum for Excellence Steering Group	Mr Millar/Mrs Thompson
LGBTQ Strategy Group	Miss Hackett/Ms Sheridan

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27th March 2023 – probably on TEAMS. (to be confirmed)

7. AOCB

- Geoff Miles informed the group that he had attended the Youth Philanthropy Initiative at the school and said he was absolutely blown away by the calibre of work these young people presented. They were lobbying for an investment of £3K and the S5's had identified charities that they wanted to work with. Local charity, Carers Link, was the ultimate winner and recipient of the grant.
- Parent Council were advised that S1's had suggested that they raise money for victims of the recent Earthquakes by having a bake sale. This was going to be held w/b 20th February. Parent Council also agreed to help set up a Just-giving page for parents to donate, and we will have feedback on the amount this raised at our next meeting.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 27th March at 6.30 pm. This may be a Zoom meeting, but confirmation will follow in due course.