**BOCLAIR ACADEMY**

**Parent Council Meeting**



**Monday 17.03.23 (6.30 pm – TEAMS meeting)**

**Present:** Chris Allen, Gaynor Bilton, Ruth Candy, Elaine Dallas, Kirsteen Graham, Keith Harrison, Jenny Kerr, Fiona Lockhart, Joanne McArthur, Jill McIntyre, Geoff Miles, Jillian Mooney, Sarah Moutune, Graham Murray, Claire Taylor, Flora Thomson.

**Staff:** Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Claire Morgan, Glenn Thomson, Amy Thompson, Maxine Traynor and Nick Walsh.

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Geoff Miles opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. He welcomed Gaynor Bilton who was attending her first meeting.

Apologies : Chris Sheerin, Susan Rae, Dominic Gonzalez and Councillor Gallagher.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of 20.02.2023 were approved by Elaine Dallas and seconded by Chris Allen. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

1. **Matters Arising**

Geoff Miles gave an update on the Mental Health Awareness presentation that he had hoped to be delivered to Parent Council by EDC. Despite numerous attempts to get this over the line EDC have now come back to say they are unable to deliver a personal session to Parent Council, but will definitely supply the links to the information given. Geoff did say that there was a wealth of Mental Health Provision information out there, and it is definitely something that is worth us being brought up to speed on resources available and links to websites. This will be brought forward to another meeting.

1. **School Website mini project update**

Chris Sheerin and Ruth Candy had met regarding the website project. They spoke about contacting the 4 feeder schools’ Parent Associations, and wanted to gauge from them what information they would be most likely to look for before the transition to Boclair. They would be keen to know what kind of information would be most useful to them. This will be reported back at a future meeting.

Regarding our own website, PC are keen to know which areas are not being used. Geoff had a quick look at the feeder schools websites and is keen for us to utilise ours more than we are at the moment. DB did say that if there is anything that we would like the school to add/delete, we just need to get in touch, and he will see to it as and when they can.

1. **Head Teacher’s Report**

**School activities over last term**

Fantastic news about our two fundraising campaigns. Our bake sale and fund raising activities for Turkey and Syria raised £1570. Our young people in S1 worked very hard and were well supported by our S3 and S6 Prefects.

Our Cash for Kids fundraiser raised over £3000 for our Music Department. Our efforts meant we came second overall and were given £2500 from the Cash for Kids grant scheme and we won the social media award adding another £500. A fantastic effort!

Our S1s have just finished their racing car project in Technical with real races taking place on our Hellerup stairs. We are loving the creativity the new spaces in the school are allowing. Well done to technical.

Our transition programme has continued over the last few weeks. All P7 pupils visited Boclair for a Maths and Modern languages morning and it was lovely to see P7s learning in their new school. Our Pupil Support Team have been visiting primary schools over the last few weeks to deliver transition lessons and we have a plan for induction days next term agreed with our cluster primary schools.

Our Easter Service will take place on Friday this week and we will be joined by our school chaplains.

Our last day of school S6 Paintball activity has been arranged. This will involve shirt signing, paintball and pizza.

**Staffing and timetabling update**

We are delighted to inform Parent Council that we have recruited a new Principal Teacher of Guidance to the school – Mr Dominic Martin. Following a long recruitment process involving a long leet interview, a pupil interview, a Pupil Support Team engagement session, a Captain tour of the school and a short leet interview. Mr Martin was appointed. He will take up his new post at the end of May. D Brown thanked Miss Hossack for her hard work in the acting role over the last few months.

Interviews will be held tomorrow for a permanent Principal Teacher of Equity post. This will allow us to continue to support our most impoverished young people beyond the life of PEF.

Following competitive interviews in March we have appointed a new Technical technician. We are also pleased to inform Parent Council that both our Science technicians have now taken up post,

We are currently recruiting for a new Maths teacher and a new Business teacher. An advert for a permanent DHT will be advertised in the next few days. This is the post vacated by Mr Brisbane following his retirement in October. D Brown invited the Parent Council to be part of the interview process after the Easter holidays.

The school asked for the views of the Parent Council on two matters related to the school timetable next session. The first is the use of double periods for S4 and S5. Having double periods allows young people to get opportunities for assessments aligned to the SQA conditions. It also allows time for practical subjects to set up for practical activities and allows a good amount of time to carry them out e.g. PE, Home Economics, Chemistry, Technical. One of the Professional Associations has asked the HT to consider removing double periods in S4. While there are advantages and disadvantages to both, the advantages of retaining double periods are strong.

The second issue relates to split lunches. Currently, there is an S1-S3 lunch and then an S4-S6 lunch. This means that all young people get the opportunity to have a seat in the canteen and don’t need to worry about long queues or not getting to sit with friends. This has a knock on effect on the calmness of the school overall. The Senior Leadership team can supervise this and ensure a safe and calm environment which is easily cleared and cleaned. Again, a professional association has asked the HT to change back to a single lunch. There is now a contingency plan for this, with year groups being allowed to take advantage of the many open areas and booth seating throughout the school. The disadvantage of this is the lack of supervision across the school and the likelihood of mess in teaching areas after the lunch break. Again, there are advantages and disadvantages of both.

The Course planning process has now been completed. C Morgan has been working on trying to ensure as many young people as possible get their first choice. It is currently sitting at 99% success rate in coursing young people based on likely staffing for next session. There is still some uncertainty related to overall staffing but the school is confident that there will be a high level of success in ensuring young people get their first choices.

D Brown has now emailed all parents again to ask them not to drive down into the car park at busy points of the day and to be more careful when driving through the streets near the school. D Brown asked the Parent Council to help ensure the message is spread across the parent body.

**Preparations for SQA Examinations – update**

Exam booklets and SQA information has now been received and will be distributed to young people this week. Final presentation levels will be confirmed as part of this process.

A comprehensive Easter Revision Programme has been developed for the first week of the holidays. D Brown thanked staff for their support of young people. This is the most comprehensive programme we have organised in the school. D Brown thanked the Parent Council for their support in ensuring transport is available for young people.

A similar comprehensive programme has been created for the Study Weekend planned for the weekend prior to the exams. Again, D Brown thanked staff for their commitment to young people over this important weekend.

**Insight Update**

D Brown presented on the recently updated Insight Benchmarking tool which allows the school to evaluate successes related to school leavers from last session. Overall the data for literacy, numeracy, overall attainment, leavers destinations and attainment versus deprivation continue to be strong. D Brown shared the individual graphs for all of the above areas.

**Summer Fayre**

G Thomson is currently planning this year’s summer fayre which is in the calendar for June. He invited Parent Council to support the event once again by helping to organise stalls and to support the hot dog and burger stall.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 15th May 2023 – in person at School.

1. **AOCB**
* Parent Council wanted to acknowledge their huge gratitude to the Teachers at Boclair, who were putting on 137 study sessions over the 4-day period (3rd-6th April) for Senior Pupils. It is resources such as this that sets Boclair head and shoulders above many other schools. Mr Brown informed PC that these sessions run from 10am – 12noon and 1.00pm – 3pm each day, and as our school is a poverty-neutral school, the school would be providing Domino’s Pizzas for the children over lunch during these study days. Discussion ensued as to who pays for the Pizzas and as Parent Council have sufficient funds in their account, it was agreed at the meeting that Parent Council will fund the cost of the Pizzas as well as paying for the Buses to bring the pupils to school over these 4 days. Mr Brown was very grateful for this offer from Parent Council.
* Summer Fayre – Saturday 17th June: Glenn Thomson will project manage the event again. Parent Council will liaise with Mr Thomson directly to co-ordinate stalls and suggestions. Geoff Miles asked for volunteers from Parent Council so we can have a sub-committee who will liaise with Mr Thomson on the fayre.
* School Trips: JK asked Mr Brown if the school were planning any Residential school trips? Mr Brown confirmed that Lendrick Muir, and the likes of Duke of Edinburgh residentials were going ahead this year, but as far as Foreign Trips he still does not see this as feasible in the current climate.
* Speed Limit within area. Mr Brown advised PC that he had received complaints from some of the school’s neighbours regarding the speed of vehicles coming to and from the school. Mr Brown did put a reminder in his update for parents to stick to the 20 mph speed limit when coming in and out of school. A discussion ensued where many parents present voiced that they were unaware that many of the streets surrounding the school were a 20 mph zone. Geoff advised that he would speak to Cllr Gallagher/Cllr Moody about the signage in the area and perhaps the need for more prominent signage to be displayed.

**The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 15th May at 6.30 pm in School.**