



BOCLAIR ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Annette McKenna, Chris Sheerin, Christine Lee, Dominic Gonzalez, Duncan Beattie, Elaine Dallas, Fiona Lockhart, Graham Murray, Jenny Kerr, Jillian Mooney, Kirsteen Graham, Ruth Candy.

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

1. Welcome & Apologies

Ruth Candy opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Apologies: Angela Thomas, Claire Arthur, Claire Taylor, Gaynor Bilton, Geoff Miles, Susan Rae, Councillor Ian Gallagher.

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on 06/11/2023 were approved by Chris Sheerin and seconded by Elaine Dallas. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

D Brown updated the meeting on staffing. There is a new teacher in the Support Spine – Sophie Douglas. Mrs Carson from Support for Learning will leave in January to start her new job in St. Luke's. Interviews take place later this month for a temporary PT Support for Learning. We are currently fully staffed in terms of teaching staff.

The school is currently four members of staff short in the school office – this will impact on the response time to emails and phone calls. D Brown thanked parents for their patience as the school work to resolve this issue.

The school is currently three SLAs short in Support for Learning. Again D Brown thanked parents for their patience as the school work to resolve this issue.

Recent Activities

D Brown updated the meeting on some of the various events within the school over recent weeks.

The S1 Parents Evening went very well with positive feedback from parents. Our Family Learning event and Positive Pathways Evening were also well received by parents who attended. The subsequent Positive Pathways pupil event takes place next week.

Our Armistice Assembly and 16 Days of Activism Assembly both went very well and young people contributed successfully to both assemblies.

Mental Health Training for S3 and S6 has now taken place along with MVP training. S6 pupils are now delivering MVP Lessons to PSE classes in the BGE. We recently launched our MAV Interns programme and we are grateful to Dr Tom Berry and Professor Christine Goodall for their work with S6 Interns.

Our Young Enterprise event and Bar Mock Trial Team event both took place early in December. Young people in S5 and S6 make excellent contributions to their teams.

The Cern Trip was highly successful with young people and staff extremely positive about the experience. D Brown thanked the staff who accompanied the trip.

Plans are in place for S6 to contribute to the St Margaret's Hospice Christmas charity bus in Milngavie on Thursday 21st December.

We are currently finalising the UCAS process. The majority of young people will have completed UCAS applications before the Christmas holidays with a small number due for completion in January.

A programme of Pupil Focus Groups will take place to capture the views of young people on various aspects of school life. A pupil, staff and parental survey, will follow these focus group meetings. D Brown invited Parent Council to consider questions they would like to ask in the survey.

School Christmas Programme

D Brown shared the programme of events for the final two weeks:

Christmas Concert – 14th December
Christmas Dance Show – 19th December
Cinema Trip BGE – 20th December
Cinema Trip Seniors – 21st December
Christmas Assembly 22nd November
Christmas Karaoke – 22nd November

Prelim arrangements and supports

The Prelim arrangements were shared along with a reminder of all the supported study sessions that have been on offer for young people over the last six weeks. M Trainor is in charge of Prelim arrangements and is currently finalising accommodation. The Games Hall will be used for the majority of the exams this year rather than a combination of the Gym and the Assembly Hall.

Parental Feedback from various events

D Brown shared the feedback from parents on the various parental engagement events over the last few weeks. The feedback was hugely positive with useful comments to help shape future events.

Equity Strategy

Following an overview of results at the last meeting, where the attainment of young people impacted by poverty and other barriers to learning was interrogated, D Brown provided a detailed overview of the approaches taken by the school to help address and close the attainment gap. These approaches were recently shared with the Education Committee within East Dunbartonshire Council.

5 Date of the next meeting

Monday 22nd January 2024.

6 AOCB

Christine Lee asked for clarification on the outside space available during breaks and lunch and if there were any areas out of bounds. Mr Brown responded: As football pitches are used as classroom space and the school has split breaks and lunches, it is difficult to ascertain when the pitches would be available for pupils to use for play. When the grass pitch returns (hopefully May) and a new grassy area is completed, there will be more space available. Outside of the canteen and side of the school can also be used. The canteen doors open both ways to allow pupils to enter and leave by push button. Pupils are expected not to wander the corridors as this can disturb pupils still in class. There are areas indoor also available.

Dominic Gonzalez asked if the school encouraged pupils to use books. Mr Brown responded there is a well stocked library that has an ongoing reading challenge, accelerated reader programme and reading ambassadors. Discussion then followed on the challenges to persuade young people to leave their screens and read books, join clubs or do activities. The wider achievement programme can help with this and give young people additional skills they can list in the future for career / education applications. The school is also able to enable and offer custom support for individuals.

The school received large planters which could be used in the future for growing food. Parents suggested that this might also help to provide supplies for the weekly food hampers.

Mr Brown reminded PC that the surveys to pupils, parents and staff will be circulated in the coming months and suggested PC could supply some of the questions. Ruth Candy suggested at the January meeting, breakout groups will be formed to discuss questions PC would want included.

Discussion was had around ensuring equity for school trips, including suggestions of fundraising and funded places.

There was a general thanks asked to be passed on to the teachers involved in the recent trip to Switzerland.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 22nd JANUARY 2024 at 6.30 PM.

In school / online - TBC