



BOCLAIR ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 22nd JANUARY 2024 via TEAMS

PRESENT: Christine Lee, Claire Taylor (from 7pm), Dominic Gonzalez, Fiona Lockhart, Geoff Miles, Ian Gallagher, Jenny Kerr, Jillian Mooney, Kirsteen Graham, Ruth Candy, Susan Rae

Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Claire Morgan, Glenn Thomson, Maxine Trainor, Nick Walsh.

Invitees: FI Monarch team from BA.

Welcome & Apologies

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

Apologies: Angela Thomas, Chris Sheerin, Gaynor Bilton, Elaine Dallas

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on 4th December 2023 were approved by Ruth Candy and seconded by Jillian Mooney.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Monarch Racing

The team from Monarch Racing who are involved in the F1 for Schools initiative gave a presentation, seeking Parent Council support for their future endeavors. Having won the regional finals, they are looking for sponsorship to enable them to compete in the national finals later this year. The team comprises of a mixed skillset of 6th year pupils assisted by Mr Mathie from the technical department. Their task is to present a folio of work and build a car, using skills they have learnt from this process – business, communications, team building etc. so they have already taken on a variety of projects to promote and fundraise. They require to raise £3000. Any leftover funds may be used to ensure the continued involvement of Boclair in the F1 in schools initiative. Their hope is to inspire parents to support their campaign in various monetary forms from a “Bronze level” of £1 to “Diamond level” of £800, similar to crowdfunding.

Email to support or for more information: Boclairmonarch@gmail.com

Geoff praised and thanked the team for an excellent presentation. Suggestions from PC were made to include sponsorship between bronze and silver to reduce the large gap as not all parents have companies / businesses to donate large sums but would like to support in a smaller way and to approach local businesses and Rotary club.

5 Pupil Staff survey

RESPECT

HONESTY

FAIRNESS

AMBITION

Mr Brown had asked PC to review and offer suggestions for inclusions in the pupil staff survey to capture as many views as possible – successes and areas that need work. The survey needs to be wide ranging but not overwhelm. It is also another way for pupils to communicate and to capture a wide audience.

DB clarified that it was important not have anonymous submissions as the survey can trigger communication and as it is widely distributed and could be subject to miscompletion. It was acknowledged that surveys are a snapshot / blunt tool and interpretation can be different. HMI understand this and with the data can look at trends and dig deeper.

Questions are a mix from HMI and Boclair. Lively discussion was had: changing some questions to have a not applicable option; questions with a yes / no answer could electronically branch out to allow for more information to be gathered; some questions were ambiguous; there were no questions relating to equity / fairness; some questions could be tailored to year groups; there were no questions on the new school environment or exams / exam process. This could be an opportunity to find out if pupils and parents feel supported at those times. DB agreed to take all comments on board and tailor accordingly.

6 Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

D Brown updated the meeting on staffing.

Following Mrs Carson's departure, Mr Carson has taken on full the role of PT Support for Learning. Mrs Murray from English will now work her three days in SFL and Miss Morrison re-joins the school in the English Department from the start of January.

Mrs Crilley and Ms Duncan from Geography have now both commenced the maternity leave. Through workforce planning the school recruited Miss McSheaffrey earlier in the session to cover for the absences. Mr Miller will take on PT responsibility for Geography and RME, as well as Modern Studies, over the next few months.

We are currently fully staffed in our Teaching staffing.

The school continues to be 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 due to illness. Again, D Brown thanked parents for their patience as the school work to resolve this issue.

Activities

RESPECT

HONESTY

FAIRNESS

AMBITION

D Brown thanked all staff for their hard work over last term with supported study. We are currently reviewing the provision to ensure appropriate sessions continue over the next few weeks.

D Brown thanks all staff for the commitment to the Christmas events. These include the school concert, the Dance Show, the S1 Ceilidh, the two cinema trips, the Christmas Assembly and the Karaoke on the last day of term.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks the following activities are planned:

Future Pathways evening for S4 and S5 parents has been re-scheduled for the 29th January

HPV Vaccinations for S1 take place on the 30th January

S2 Parent's Evening takes place on the 1st February

Our Options evenings for S2 - S5 pupils take place in February:

S2 into S3 6.00 pm. Wednesday 7th February

S3 into S4 7.00 pm. Wednesday 7th February

S4 into S5 6.00 pm. Thursday 8th February

S5 into S6 7.00 pm. Thursday 8th February

S2 Careers Conference takes place on 15th February

S3 Parents' Evening takes place on 22nd February

Prelim arrangements and supports

The Prelims are now well underway. These continue to be supported through a scaffolding approach to ensure young people are experiencing a fair test of how much they have covered balanced against their readiness for the final exam.

The school took the decision to delay the start of the exams by 15 minutes following a request in consultation with the Chair of the Parent Council. This was to help mitigate issues with the Torrance buses, roadworks on Balmore Road, roadworks and Canniesburn, and adverse weather. While this has some impact on exams later in the day it has helped reduce stress and anxiety at the start of the day.

Invigilators have praised the attitude and commitment of our young people during the exams.

Torrance bus

Following complaints from parents regarding the reliability of the Torrance bus we have escalated the complaints to SPT Transport Team and EDC Transport team. Following their investigation we have been given assurances from the company and SPT that the buses have been fully checked and are fit for purpose, and they have assured us the buses will run on time, with the obvious caveat that accidents and breakdowns can happen regardless of how many checks are completed.

We will continue to monitor the situation and raise complaints through SPT and the EDC Transport team as required.

Course Planning Process

We are now heading into the Course Planning process with a clear timeline of all the different aspects of course planning finalised.

Event	Date
Email to PTs inviting changes to Curriculum Planning descriptors	18 th January 2024
Curriculum Planning Information updated by PTs	25 th January 2024
S2 Parents' Meetings (4.15 pm – 6.45 pm)	1st February 2024
Curriculum Planning Booklets and Presentations completed by DHTs	5 th February 2024
S2 Curriculum Planning Evening (6.00 pm)	7 th February 2024
S3 Curriculum Planning Evening (7.00 pm)	7 th February 2024
S4 Curriculum Planning Evening (6.00 pm)	8 th February 2024
S5 Curriculum Planning Evening (7.00 pm)	8 th February 2024
S2 Careers Conference	15 th February 2024
S2 PT Carousel	16 th February 2024
S3 Curriculum Planning Interviews (BLR 1)	19 th February 2024
S3 Parents' Meetings (4.15 pm – 6.45 pm)	22 nd February 2024
S2 Curriculum Planning Interviews (BLR 1)	20 th February 2024
S4 Curriculum Planning Interviews (BLR 1)	23 rd February 2024
S5 Curriculum Planning Interviews (BLR 1)	26 th February 2024
S3 Curriculum Planning Forms returned	26 th February 2024
S2 Curriculum Planning Forms returned	26 th February 2024
S4 Curriculum Planning Forms returned	26 th February 2024
S5 Curriculum Planning Forms returned	28 th February 2024

SIP Priorities

	Improvement Plan Priorities
Session	2023/24
Priority 1	Improving health and wellbeing and promoting positive relationships
Priority 2	Improving learning, teaching and assessment with a particular focus on moderation and assessment
Priority 3	Raising attainment & achievement and closing the attainment gap

Priority 1:	Improving health and wellbeing and promoting positive relationships
--------------------	--

RESPECT

HONESTY

FAIRNESS

AMBITION

Further roll out of Mental Health First Aid Training to support YP – another 10 staff trained
Further training on Mental Health – all staff
30 YP Trained as Mental Health First Aiders, and 100 YP trained as buddies and anti-bullying ambassadors
40 S3 pupils trained on Mental Health and wellbeing as part of their Leadership Development
40 YP Trained as baristas for work in the community cafe
Implementation and of the new Promoting Positive Relationships policy to support all YP and staff
Community Café established to help open up conversations and provide opportunities for good mental health
Review impact of the change of Guidance structure and consider further improvements
Review and improve the school website as a vehicle for improving relationships with parents
Continue to review the use of external spaces following completion of the new school project including eco approaches

Priority 2:	Improving learning, teaching and assessment with a particular focus on moderation and assessment
	Improvement in learning and teaching through launch of the new Learning and Teaching Policy
	Improvement in digital learning and digital literacy through launch of new Digital Learning policy
	All staff undertake Professional Learning in Learning and Teaching including the EDC Learning Festival
	Improvement in approaches to assessment and moderation through Professional Discussion sessions, attainments meetings and classroom observation feedback
	Continue to develop family learning in order to better support parents to help their children at home

Priority 3:	Raising attainment & achievement and closing the attainment gap
	Improved attainment at Level 5 for SIMD 1&2
	Continue to address the fall in SCQF Level 4 and 5 attainment dip in numeracy for SIMD 1&2
	Improved attainment in areas identified through Insight Analysis in October 2023
	Full return to all inclusive, all through wider achievement programme including curricular visits in UK and abroad, and clubs in school
	Review use of school spaces to support new approaches to learning and teaching, and new approaches to pupil centred study
	Return to Senior Phase mentoring

RESPECT

HONESTY

FAIRNESS

AMBITION

Increased opportunities for vocational learning and work experience

7 Date of next meeting

Monday 19th February 2024 via Teams

8 AOCB

None

The meeting closed at 1950 hours.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 19th February 2024 at 6.30 PM.