



## **BOCLAIR ACADEMY**

### **PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 via TEAMS**

**PRESENT:** Angela Thomas, Chris Sheerin, Christine Lee, Dominic Gonzalez, Fiona Lockhart, Gaynor Bilton, Geoff Miles, Jenny Kerr, Jillian Mooney, Kirsteen Graham, Ruth Candy

**Staff:** Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Clare Morgan, Glenn Thompson, Marianne Mc Guire, Maxine Trainor, Nick Walsh.

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

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

Apologies: Claire Taylor, Elaine Dallas, Ian Gallagher, Joanne McArthur, Varinder Dhaliwal

#### **2 Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 were approved by Jenny Kerr and seconded by Jillian Mooney. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

#### **3 Matters arising**

Update from Monarch F1 team: following an excellent presentation, the team have secured their sponsorship required to progress to the National Finals. Parent Council wish them every success.

#### **4 Head Teacher Report**

##### **Staffing update**

D Brown updated the meeting on staffing.

Kathryn Macdonald from Art is now on maternity leave. We have recruited Mr Andrew Fleming to replace Kathryn over the next few weeks. 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 works to resolve this issue.

### **Course Planning**

Activities are under way with individual interview starting today with S3 pupils. This will continue over the next week to cover all year groups.

### **Early timetable update for next session**

We are currently unable to guarantee Home Economics for S3 next year or for S1 next year. S2 is also not delivered in S2. This is due to staffing issues. This will be reviewed if there is successful recruitment.

### **Activities**

A huge number of activities related to Curriculum planning have already taken place including S2 Parents Evening, Careers Conference, Subject Carousel and Parent Information Evenings

Senior Phase Reports are currently being prepared and should be sent out this week.

Well done to our dancers who once again won the EDC Dancefest – the national Cheer competition is at the end of this week.

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

S3 Parents' Evening takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
S3 Vaccinations – Teenage booster and MenACWY 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Family Learning Event 13<sup>th</sup> March

### **Prelim update**

The Prelims are now complete. Attainment meetings are currently taking place with subject Principal Teachers. Results are in line with previous years across S4 to S6.

The Supported Study Programme recommenced this week with a wide range of sessions on offer. Spring Revision takes place in the first week of the holidays – Tuesday to Friday. PC will contribute to the buses. Plans are in place for the Study Weekend just prior to the exams in April.

### **Initial thoughts about the Summer Fayre**

The Summer Fayre this year is on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. G Thomson will lead on this again this year. Potential change might be to open up the new school to tours to encourage a wider range of visitors. This would need to be carefully planned to avoid areas of the school being damaged. D Brown requested further discussion regarding planning of the event at the next Parent Council.

## 5 AOCB

- Spring Fayre date set for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Mr Thompson the main organiser. A separate agenda item will be set for discussion and organisation at the next meeting.
- Following the S2 careers day, Kirsteen Graham asked whether something similar is or could be offered to S4. Mr Brown acknowledged there had been discussions around this and logistics can prove difficult but will give more thought.
- Jenny Kerr raised concerns that other schools in the local authority (LA) appeared to be offering more school trips than Boclair. Particularly hard hit have been the S3/4 pupils from the pandemic. Mr Brown explained that trips are being offered both subject specific and a plan for a ski trip in December 2025 to allow families time to save. The school is also dependent on staff volunteering to organize / attend these trips. All suggested trips have been considered, none refused. While there may appear disparity in this area, Boclair has the best supported study programme in the LA. Geoff Miles suggested the topic can be sensitive as equity discussions have to be considered. Perhaps a separate agenda item needs to be added to PC in the future, if there is a demand for more discussion.

The meeting closed at 1911 hours.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 6.30 PM IN SCHOOL.**