

**Boclair Academy
Parent Council**



PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Angela Thomas, Chris Allen, Chris Sheerin, Christine Lee, Claire Taylor, Dominic Gonzalez, Duncan Beattie, Elaine Dallas, Gaynor Bilton, Geoff Miles, Jenny Kerr, Jill McIntyre, Kirsteen Graham, Ruth Candy.

Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Glenn Thomson, Nick Walsh.

1. Welcome & Apologies

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

Apologies: Varinder Dhaliwal, Joanne McArthur, Jillian Mooney, Councillor Ian Gallagher, Fiona Lockhart.

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on 18/09/2023 were approved by Dominic Gonzalez and seconded by Chris Allen. Head Teacher report will be added before publishing minutes on website.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Head Teacher Report

There have been issues with the Torrance bus recently. The buses are arriving at school on time but it appears that they aren't always picking up from pick up places in the correct order. The office team will contact the contractor to establish the reason for this.

S4 Parents Evening moved online as a result of industrial action by non-teaching unions. While not ideal, this allowed the evening to go ahead using the online system. The S5/6 Parents Evening was in person and was a very positive evening. Our next Parents' evening is for S1 parents and carers and takes place on Thursday 23rd November.

Our Senior Awards Ceremony took place on 10th October and was well attended. It was a lovely night with great contributions from the music department.

The school hosted the EDC Learning Festival on the October In-service Day where all 750 teachers and SLAs from across EDC visited the school. On the day there were 40 workshops on creative and innovative learning. Over 200 Prefects assisted on the day and were a real credit to Boclair Academy.

The school's focus on Black History Month ended with a Black History Month Celebration event, which was well attended, and there were lovely performances and poetry readings. On the same day, we held five assemblies with our partners from Show Racism the Red Card. Young people were attentive and respectful throughout and feedback from Show Racism the Red Card staff was very positive.

We cancelled our normal Assembly programme this week ahead of a whole school Armistice Assembly on Friday 10th November.

Our Lendrick Muir residential for S1 took place immediately after the October holiday. Young people in S1 engaged well with the activities and enjoyed their experience.

Our UCAS Information evening was held in Thursday 26th October. Dom Martin took parents and carers through the UCAS process and feedback on the evening was positive. Our Positive pathways evening takes place on 9th November and then our Further and Higher Education Evening takes place on 7th December.

Our Opening Evening for P7 Parents and pupils will take place on 16th November. Representative of the Parent Council were invited to attend to encourage future membership.

Over the next two weeks Senior Leadership Team will be taking part in a variety of self-evaluation activities including learning visit to observe all teachers, attainment meeting with all departments and a local authority attainment meeting with the Head of Education and senior education staff. The Insight presentation shared with parents with parents this evening is part of the overall self-evaluation process.

5 Attainment - Insight

D Brown presented a comprehensive overview of the school's attainment as measured through the Insight Benchmarking Tool. Attainment in the recent examinations across S4, S5 and S6 has been very strong this year. Across all measures, the school remains significantly higher than the national attainment and the virtual comparator. This was broken down into various measure including Literacy, Numeracy, Improving Attainment for all, Attainment versus Deprivation, and how the school interrogates departmental performances.

A positive discussion took place regarding curriculum pathways within the school and the wider opportunities for young people to attain. These pathways will be kept under constant review in order to ensure that we meet the needs of all learners.

Various discussions followed the presentation including how well the young people of Boclair had done not only this year but the previous years with the challenges COVID and a new school had brought. Mr Brown highlighted that Boclair has many varied pathways for pupils to explore, especially for those who may not want to carry on into further education.

6 AOCB

- Geoff thanked Graham Murray for representing Parent Council (PC) by attending the senior awards ceremony recently.

- Parent Council representatives are invited to attend the upcoming P7 Open evening (Thursday 16th November) and S1 Parent's evening (Thursday 23rd November) to chat to parents about the work of and involvement in PC.
- Gaynor Bilton asked if boys could wear school shorts as an alternative to trousers. Staff assured this was acceptable school uniform as long as they were not sports kit.
- Geoff shared his recent attendance at the Parent Council Forum, stating of particular interest was the input of attendance and impact on attainment. The presentation slides from this input will be circulated to PC members.
- It was suggested that some contextualization could be provided for pupils voting in the Youth Parliament as there may be some lack of understanding.
- It was acknowledged with gratitude to the staff for the supported study programme offered by the school and providing bus transport.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2023 at 6.30 PM IN SCHOOL.