



**BOCLAIR ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY 24th March 2025**

PRESENT: Gaynor Bilton, Geoff Miles, Jenny Kerr, Susan Rae, Duncan Beattie, Dominic Gonzalez, Annette McKenna, Graham Murray, Claire Arthur

Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Clare Morgan, Glenn Thompson, Jen Cleisham, Maxine Trainor, Nick Walsh, Katie Scott

1. Welcome & Apologies

GB welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies: Kirsteen Graham, Angela Thomas, Elaine Dallas, Claire Taylor

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 24th February 2025 were approved by Geoff Miles and seconded by Annette McKenna.

3. RRSA Presentation

Miss Katie Scott (History teacher) and S4 pupils Aeron & Obianuju gave a presentation on Rights Respecting Schools outlining their recent achievement of silver level and explaining the next aim of achieving gold level and how the parent council can help.

The Parent Council thanked the RRSA for such an informative presentation and offered to help in any way that they can to help the school achieve their Gold Award.

4. Matters arising

GB confirmed she spoke to Bearsden South Community Council re a grant for school materials. BSCC confirmed that they issue grants each month and encouraged the school to apply. DB proposed materials as selected by the Art department to create an outdoor classroom on the balcony. These materials will cost around £2-3k. GB stated that the department should forward the specific list of required materials with exact costs to forward to the BSCC.

Action: Mr Smith and staff give a detailed list to DB/GB who will forward to the community council.

GB confirmed that a new bank account will be opened which will allow for the use of a square/QR code to enhance fundraising.

Action: GB complete the set up of the new bank account.

DB stated that he recently met Killermont Primary PTA chair and has offered to attend a future PTA meeting and to give them a tour of Bocclair as they are keen to see the school building.

5. Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

Mrs Newlands is currently absent – TT has now been adapted

Mrs Williams in Art is currently absent – TT has now been adapted and additional support put in place

Timetabling

Timetabling is now well underway with almost all young people getting their first choice of subjects. NQT requests have been submitted to Scottish Government and new posts advertised Business, PE, Biology & STEM and Enhanced Learning.

S6 Last Day

the final celebration day for S6 will now take place on Friday 4th April. Young people will have a final day of shirt signing, breakfast rolls and then paintballing. This will be the S6's last day of school other than when they are in school to finalise their folios or to sit exams.

Further and Higher Education event

The Minister for Higher and Further Education, Graham Dey, visited the school today to meet with staff and young people about the support young people receive in moving on to positive destinations beyond school.

Foreign Trips

Thank you to the staff who organised the next Paris trip for BGE pupils in May. The Portugal Trip is also due to take place prior to the summer. There is also a proposal that Geography will run a trip to Italy in June 2026 – more details to follow.

Supported Study and Spring Revision

Supported Study has again proved popular and young people are engaging well. Core time is now also focussing on additional support for young people. The Spring Revision programme will be issued tomorrow.

SAAS

Pupils received the presentation today. The Parents' presentation is on Wednesday and details have been sent to parent.

Study Leave for S4 and S5

This begins on Thursday 24th April 2025, with the first exam of the diet taking place on Friday 25th April 2025.

6. Mobile Phones

DB stated that they recently consulted an S6 pupil group with regard to the use of mobile phones in school. He stated that the pupils expressed that they wouldn't like a blanket ban on phones and that they feel it is fair to use their mobile phones appropriately as/when required. They specified that they believe it's more about taking care of our digital wellbeing and sharing and recommending better habits with phones as opposed to banning them. Parent council discussed both the positive use of mobile phones for learning and study and raised a few concerns which had been shared with us from parents including the overuse of mobile phones during break/lunch where pupils feel isolated and over reliant on their phones. It was suggested that a future session for parents may be helpful in guiding them on features such as parental controls and other safety measures that they can implement in order to support their child's use of their phone.

Overall the Parent Council felt that the current guidance in place for student use of their mobile phones should not be changed at this moment in time.

Action: Consider future workshop/information for pupils/parents on good phone habits

7. Summer Fayre

GT stated that canteen staff will help with fayre.

The next parent council meeting on 12th May will focus on the fayre.

GT will shortly start gathering information of which staff can help with school fayre and will be looking for PC members to volunteer too. PC members will help on the day of the fayre and on the run up to the event.

GT stated that the key areas of the fayre which are particularly successful are home baking and the food. He stated that we now have the addition of a card reader which we hope will help ease payments.

We discussed the fact that external stalls added to the variety of goods available at the last fayre, however they maybe didn't make a huge profit (holders paid a fee of £20 per stall and were asked to make a donation to the tombola).

GB suggested we add butter and jam as an option for the scones at the home baking staff so people could eat on the go.

GT stated that the garden and glassware stall did well.

GB also suggested that the tombola should be drawn on the day of the event to avoid upset customers.

GT stated that if anyone has any new ideas for stalls/activities to let him know.

Action: GT to compile volunteers list

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 12th May

9. AOCB

GB attended the virtual East Dunbartonshire Parent Council Forum on Tuesday 18th March. At the forum the review of EDC Aims, Visions and Values was discussed. It was asked at the meeting that Parent Council chairs raise this matter with their parent body in case anyone wishes to comment. GB suggested that anyone interested in commenting should contact her and she would pass on the presentation given at the Parent Council Forum. All comments must be with EDC by Friday 2nd April.

GM asked about the new policy with regard to S6 pupils subject choices. He stated that he had been told that if S6 pupils are not taking an advanced higher they are being advised to take 5 highers. DB confirmed that this is what the school are recommending for S6 pupils to enable them to get the most value out of their final year at school and to ensure pupils are fully focussed on their learning and showing full commitment to their subjects and future destinations. He made clear that the school will always aim to provide the most suitable route for each pupil and for some this may mean adaptations to this recommendations. He encourages those pupils and their parents to speak to the school to discuss any concerns or adaptations that they believe their young learner should have.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm