



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY 20th January 2025 6.30pm

PRESENT: Annette McKenna, Claire Arthur, Elaine Dallas, Gaynor Bilton, Geoff Miles, Ian Gallagher, Jenny Kerr, Keith Harrison, Kirsteen Graham, Susan Rae.

Staff: Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Glenn Thompson, Jen Cleisham.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Gaynor welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies: Christine Lee, Claire Taylor, Dominic Gonzalez, Graham Murray, Jillian Mooney, Clare Morgan, Maxine Trainor, Nick Walsh.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 2nd December 2024 were approved by Claire Arthur and seconded by Annette McKenna.

3. Matters arising

From AOCB regarding bins and littering, IG has investigated with the council. While there are enough bins in the grounds of Boclair Academy and the pupils are using the bins, with the Building Manager regularly emptying these 2 or 3 times a week and putting the contents in the larger bins which are thereafter uplifted by Waste,.

The main issue concerning litter is because of gulls pulling litter out of the bins. As a result, the council will look at fitting lids to the bins or increasing the number of times the bins are emptied to help reduce this issue. Discussion followed that lids may not be the answer as the bins have side openings. Also the littering is worst on the roads pupils use at lunchtimes away from the school / Inveroran Drive where there are very few bins.

ACTION: IG will go back to roads department and enquire further.

4. Head Teacher Report

Staffing update

Miss Duncan and Mrs Crilley return this month. Thanks to Verity McSheaffrey for all her hard work over the last two years. She now joins Kirkintilloch High School.

RRSA

D Brown informed the Parent Council that following a rigorous assessment process involving staff and young people, Boclair Academy has been awarded the Silver Rights Respecting School Award. Should parents be interested D Brown offered to ask Katie Scott, RRSA lead, to attend a future PC meeting to share the work of the school around RRSA.

Angela Thomas (AT), Annette McKenna (AM), Christine Lee (CL), Claire Arthur (CA), Clare Morgan (CM), Claire Taylor (CT), Connor McCauley (CoA), Dominic Gonzalaz (DG), Douglas Brown (DB), Duncan Beattie (DB), Elaine Dallas (ED), Fiona Curran (FC), Gaynor Bilton (GB), Geoff Miles (GM), Geraldine McGuigan (GMC), Glenn Thomson (GT), Graham Murray (GM), Ian Gallagher (IG), Imran Tabraiz (IT), Jen Cleisham (JC), Jenny Kerr (JK), Jill McIntyre (JMc), Jillian Mooney (JM), Keith Harrison (KH), Kirsteen Graham (KG), Maxine Trainor (MT), Nick Walsh (NW), Paula Brown (PB), Sandeep Kaur (SK), Sarah Muotone (SM), Susan Johnston (SJ), Susan Rae (SR), Susan Sinclair (SS)

Prelims

The Prelims have gone smoothly so far and young people have been commended for their conduct within the exam setting. Reports are due to be completed by the middle of February.

Transition

Work is already underway to support the P7 into S1 transition. We welcomed P7 pupils to our concert rehearsal prior to Christmas, and our English and Maths staff are currently visiting all our primaries over the prelim diet along with Guidance staff. Our STEM and Business challenges take place in February. Information is already being gathered on our new intake and enhanced transition will take place soon.

Further and Higher Education event

This Monday (27th January), Bocclair Academy are holding a Further and Higher Education Information Evening in school from 6pm to 7.30 pm. The evening is aimed primarily at S4 and S5 pupils and their parents and carers, although pupils and parents / carers from S3 are also welcome to attend if they wish. There will be four presentations of around fifteen minutes. Presentations will give an overview of courses, faculties, entry procedures and requirements, university life and pathways to further and higher education. We will have speakers from The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde and City of Glasgow College. In addition, two members of our school staff, Mr Martin (PT Guidance) and Ms Young (Skills Development Scotland) will present on UCAS applications, The Reach programme and Graduate apprenticeships. The evening will begin with a short introduction from a member of the senior leadership team before the four presentations start. Guests will be organised into four groups which will visit each presentation on a rotational basis.

Christmas Hampers

Our Christmas Hamper appeal was highly successful again this year. Thanks to all parents for their support.

Snow Ball

Our inaugural Snow Ball for S5 and S6 students was a huge success. Young people had a great time and were respectful throughout the evening.

Christmas Concert

This was another great success with over 200 attending on the night. Well done to the music Department for their hard works and dedication.

Dance Shows

Our two dance shows were held on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December. Again these were a huge success with over 250 people attending on both nights.

Cinema Trips

Over 500 young people attended our cinema trips at the end of term. Well done to all pupils and the organisers for their efforts in making the trips successful.

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5. Pupil Equity Funding

School Improvement - PEF

D Brown presented on the use of the Pupil Equity Fund and the wider work of the school to mitigate the impact of poverty. The presentation contained an overview of the positive outcomes achieved by young people, and explained how this compared to the Virtual Comparator on Insight.

6. Second parent's evening Discussion

Postponed until next meeting

7. Date of next meeting

Monday 24th February 2025 6.30 pm in person

8. AOCB

ED informed that the PC bank account has now been closed. There are no accounts that do not charge fees so the remaining £17.95 will be transferred into the PC section of the school account. Discussion centred on the PEF information and whether, should funding be reduced or stopped, alternate funding could be accessed. DB stated there are potentially grants that can be applied for by parent councils. Any fundraising ideas would be welcome.

Suggestions were to have QR codes available, perhaps appeals for funds twice a year and donations if items from parents/carers. GM reminded that the constitution separates parent council as a governance group rather than fundraising as per a PTA.

ACTION: GB to look into QR codes, grants and crowdfunding

GM asked for previous meeting minutes to be available on the school website.

ACTION: DB to facilitate.

SR enquired about senior pupil education on financing and budgeting. Information about this will be brought to the next meeting.

JK wished to thank staff for their continued support at the lead up to and during exam time.

The meeting closed at 8.25PM