

BOCLAIR ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
Minute of Meeting
Monday 23rd January 2017

Chair Ivana Bhattacharyya
Minute Alison MacNair
Treasurer Moira Paterson

Present: Ivana Bhattacharyya, Kathleen Seath, Ann McKenzie, Paula Hourston, Jane Paterson, Aileen Hamilton, Gillian Birse, Angela MacLellan, Fiona Williams, Cllr Keith Small, Cllr Manjinder Shergill, Ruth Candy, Jacqui Clark, Chris Anderson, Chris Allen, Andrew Shaw, Adrienne Shaw, David Murphy, Moira Paterson, William Traynor, Suzanne Chase, Douglas Brown (HT) Maxine Trainor(DHT) Claire Morgan(Guidance), Gerry Higgins(Guidance) Isobel Lightbody.

Introduction and Welcome

Ivana welcomed those in attendance.

Minute of last Meeting

Previous minute from the meeting on 28th November 2016 were agreed and seconded by Kathleen Seath.

Finance Update

This was deferred to next meeting as the Treasurer was not in attendance.

Housing Development

Concerns over the hazards arising as a result of the new housing development have seen some improvement since intervention by Cllr Small. Douglas Brown reported that he and some of the Senior Pupil had been down and parking issues seem to greatly improved however it was noted that until a public footpath is in place pupils will still have to walk on the road.

S1 Tracking

Fiona Williams highlighted her concerns around the learning transition from Primary to Secondary School education. Fiona advised that she felt that the focus of education shifts from learning in Primary Schools to working towards exams in Secondary Schools. Fiona also suggested that pupils may benefit from having the same teacher across all subjects for the first six months following transition to secondary. This would give parents a single point of contact and would make the tracking of progress more open to parents.

Douglas Brown advised that the School was always willing to consider anything that improved the transition from Primary and Secondary education. He also advised that the Guidance Department has a significant role to play in providing parents with a single point of contact.

Fundraising-Flightpath, Christmas Concert

Money is currently available through Flightpath. Maxine Trainer has already begun drafting an application for an outdoor learning area which would enhance the schools excellent outdoor space. Cllr Shergill suggested that it would be good practice for the application to be developed and written in partnership with the Parent Council and Pupil Council. Ruth Candy and Fiona Williams offered their support and assistance with the application.

A suggestion was made that the School consider fundraising through Big Deal Fundraising which provides books of vouchers which are sold at £20 but the vouchers offer savings of £500. The books of vouchers are sent home with children and the ones not purchased returned. Concern was raised about the liability of unsold books which were not returned.

Members of the Parent Council raised £150 at the Christmas Concert which will be added to the funds already raised towards the School's new sound system.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Update

Mr Morgan has a new post. The advert for this vacancy has now closed with a good number of strong applicants. Mr Brown hopes that interviews will be held within the next couple of weeks.

Duke of Edinburgh

Mrs Docherty has now agreed to become involved. Recognition was given to the amount of work involved in running and administering the Duke of Edinburgh programme. It is intended to bring everyone on the programme to a fixed point of completion. Dates for expeditions have already been agreed. Miss Crockett or Mrs Docherty will come to the February meeting to provide an update on the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Positive Pathways

This is an initiative offering alternatives to university. Parents who attended meeting found the information about apprenticeships, EDC and other training providers. Although this group is relatively small the intention is to continue running these sessions.

National Holocaust Day

An event is being held at Bishopbriggs Academy which will involve music, drama and dance collaboration. Boclair Academy is hosting a locality event tomorrow which will be attended by a Rwandan genocide survivor and the daughter of a holocaust survivor from Nazi Germany. The Provost will also be in attendance. The event will be presented by the Head Boy and Head Girl. Show My Homework: Claire Morgan advised that parents have now been sent home logins. It is a very useful website the use of which is continuing to grow with teachers posting PowerPoint presentations and other information. Pupils should be encouraged to make use of this resource.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

Pupils have spent time researching local charities with a view to selecting one charity which will go on to receive £3000 from the Wood Foundation who fund and manage this programme in Scotland. Chris Anderson agreed to sit on the panel to hear the final presentations and select the winning charity.

Dementia Friends

Dementia Friends Sessions have now been held with all 3rd year classes. Third year pupils have been contributing to the local dementia café every month and

are also hosting events at school where people with a diagnosis of dementia and carers will be invited along for refreshments and musical performances.

Christmas Events

Christmas events were very successful. The concert was excellent as was the artwork which was on display in the main hall.

S3 Parents Night

Maxine Trainor spoke about the introduction of an online booking system for the forthcoming S3 parent's night. If this trial is a success it will be rolled out across all years. A demonstration was given of how the system would work and this was well received.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Gerry Higgins gave a presentation on the School's Anti-Bullying Policy which is currently under review.

The Parent Council Members were given a copy of this document and asked for comment. Comments should be directed to Mr Higgins or Mrs McRae. Pupils will also have an opportunity to comment.

Date of Next Meeting Monday 27th February 2017 at 7.15pm