



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 23.10.17

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Gillian Birse, Suzanne Chase, Jacqui Clark, Aileen Hamilton, Alison McNair, Joanne McArthur, Ann McKenzie, Kathleen Seath, Adrienne Shaw, Flora Thomson, William Traynor, Andrew Shaw, Emma Sheppard, Alan Taylor, Douglas Brown (HT), Clare Morgan (ADHT)

Chair Chris Allen
Vice-Chair Alison McNair
Minutes Joanne McArthur
Treasurer tba

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris opened the meeting and introduced himself as the new Chairperson of Boclair Parent Council. He welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for coming along and offered a warm welcome to those attending for the first time. Introductions were made by all. Apologies were received from : Ruth Candy, Fiona Lockhart, Jane Paterson and Shirley Fraser.

2. Minutes of AGM

The minutes of 18.09.17 were proposed by Aileen Hamilton and seconded by Flora Thomson.

3. Head Teachers Report & Presentation

Douglas Brown spoke of his absolute delight once again at this year's results, and that he would talk more when giving his visual presentation. He said the school had varying activities which are ongoing including : S1's residential trip to Lendrick Muir, S6 Go-karting sessions, he touched on the Battlefield trip which was a wonderful experience, French Exchange Scheme, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Wider Achievements including S2's working with the Foodbanks. Mrs Morgan also spoke about the Higher Business Management trip who had visited Ibrox – the children had a fabulous day and gained invaluable experience of behind the scenes. They also spoke of the Justice Minister visiting the schools on 21st September to meet the S6 pupils involved in the MAV programme. This was widely published on the BBC and our school is the first school to run this programme. Mrs Morgan also highlighted the YPI for S5's as part of PSE. The Parent Council have been asked to nominate a member who would be willing to join the judging panel in December this year. In the last couple of weeks the school has launched MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) we have 55 S4 pupils taking part. Boclair also had 28 children taking part in Level I football coaching course. In November this year we will have all S4 pupils 1st Aid trained. The school will also run a Pathways to Positive Destinations day which will be for businesses and/or colleges to showcase to the pupils, this is always a very popular day. During the October week S5 & S6 pupils completed a week at BAE Systems – again the children

thought this was extremely worthwhile and were delighted with the hands-on experience they gained.

Mr Brown then showed the group a powerpoint presentation of the exam statistics for the year passed. He gave a very in-depth discussion about how the results are calculated and compared using virtual reality.

4. Update on Benches

Chris explained that the benches have been delivered to the school, but fundraising needs to be sought to pay for the installation. An update will be given at the next meeting.

5. Priorities for Future Meetings

- Chris spoke about the way forward with the group and one of the first things we touched on was School Improvement Plan. Mr Brown explained that the school has self-evaluation surveys about what the pupils like and would want in the school. DB agreed to bring this to the next meeting and we will decide how the Parent Council can link in with staff and pupils on what matters to them most. After we get a clearer indication of the route we plan to take we will then invite Jen Crockett to a meeting thereafter.

It was suggested that we should visit one or two of the "new build Schools" local to us, and see what they have on offer compared to what our Children have at Boclair. This will be discussed again in future.

- Chris also highlighted that Parent Council are aware that the school is trying to raise money to fund the upgrading of the school sound system. This is basically a 3-year plan, and it is thought in the first year the bill is likely to be around £4K. Jacqui Clark has previously mentioned a Just-Giving page, and this again will be re-visited in the near future along with other ways that we could get pupils/parents involved in the fundraising.
- PC also raised the school website with the staff. It was confirmed that the Website is an on-going issue for the school. They are in the process of having a complete new Website built but it is a massive task, and the staff currently felt they should continue down the route of Twitter, whilst this is being discussed. Mr Brown invited the Parent Council to get involved when the time comes to build the New Website so we too can have a section on it.
- It was raised by one of the Parents that it would be good if the School Newsletter contained information on "What's coming Up" as opposed to always what has just happened. This way, it gives parents a wee bit of notice on planning, i.e. Barcelona Trips, Iceland Trip etc.
- Chris also spoke of the Parent Council Bank account & highlighted that we should get the appropriate signatories in place. This will be looked at, albeit there are very minimal funds in it as any fundraising etc now goes straight into the Boclair HS account.

6. Encouraging parent feedback & involvement

Due to time constraints it was decided to hold this back until the next meeting.

7. Appointment of Treasurer

Flora Thomson very kindly offered to assist with the role of Treasurer.

8. AOCB

Nothing else was raised due to the lateness of the meeting finishing. Anything pertinent would be brought along to the next meeting.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 27th November at 7.15 pm in Staff Room.