



Boclair Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 25th April at 7.15pm in the Staff room

Present: I Bhattacharyya (Chair), G Birse, W Traynor, P Hourston, I Lightbody, G Miller, A Hamilton, A Weaver, S Douglas, A McKenzie, J Paterson, D Murphy, J Candy, Cllr Shergill, M Paterson (minutes)

In Attendance : D Brown (HT), J Crocket, P Morgan

Apologies: Alison Bennett, K Seath, R Candy, D Piper (clerk)

1. Introduction and Welcome : Ivana welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

2. Minutes of the last meeting : Previous minutes agreed and seconded by G Miller.

3. Head Teacher's Report:

Mark Scott awards ceremony – 2 girls have achieved awards and are attending prize giving tonight.

Budget update – staff cover budget has been reduced by one third. Staff development budget has also been cut, but confident training can be provided in-house. Consideration to be given to term-time working, although school would still have cover eg at exam results time. Decisions will be made in September.

Tripartite group - Group met to look at potential models. Proposed 9:7 model was accepted by all, therefore recommends change from 8:8 to 9:7.

Maintenance work – During Easter holidays boys PE changing rooms, both shower areas, lighting, re-painting. All fixings have now been actioned. Negative press noted, followed by positive press re exam results.

Go4Set – will attend next parent council meeting. Engineering Development Trust (EDT) used previous Go4Set group within a focus group to tell their story.

Landrover challenge group who won Scottish section had a great time at Silverstone competition.

End of year concert at Killermont bowling club raised approx. £1000 for charity.

End of year paintballing day this Friday.

Three staff ran Balfron 10k last Sunday.

S3/4 netball team won East Dunbartonshire league.

Boclair hosted EDC dance festival which was well organised by PE department.

Two S5 boys have achieved Coach for Success awards at Ibrox with SFA.

Staff – one office staff member down, two classroom assistants down. Chemistry post advertised. Mrs Cleisham returning from maternity leave in 2 weeks.

Duke of Edinburgh – Mr McIntyre is unable to host gold award at school as not enough kids indicated interest. Potential to join with another school. Discussion around support for those working on awards – information on Dof E website. David will discuss with D Brown. Mr McIntyre to be invited to next meeting.

Solar Aid – S1 interdisciplinary project focussing on Africa. Helping replace kerosene lamps with solar lights. Pupils in a number of subjects are looking at different aspects of solar aid. Pupils came up with ideas for engaging others and £473 was raised.

Wider Achievement:

S1 achieving John Muir award, using local woods and grounds. Pupil council raised litter issue – litter survey completed and showed problem therefore litter picked as well as planting. Environmental survey in local area will be final piece of work in award. Jim Corrigan was contacted by school and parent council. Uplifts appear to have improved.

S2 – Saltire volunteering award. Supporting local foodbanks. S3 - trained as dementia friends through Alzheimer's Scotland. Local community event to be held in June. Next year will potentially hold a monthly event.

Developing opportunities for senior school – meeting next week with Classrooms for Malawi ambassador regarding a longterm project jointly with Mary's meals looking at taking pupils to Malawi for learning opportunities.

Easter revision sessions were very successful with over 200 pupils signed up and 25 staff members involved. PC thanked staff for their commitment and for organising bus services. Request for advert of study time to be earlier to avoid booking holidays. Request for advert of what will be covered in each session, possibly a brochure with more information.

4. **EDC parent Council Forum:** Liability insurance - from August EDC will not be given insurance. If not running events PC does not need insurance. Can get own insurance if required. Health & Wellbeing forum – no pupils from Boclair. **Mrs Traynor and Miss Gillespie will be made aware.**

5. **Finances:** To find out how much money PC have in school safe to pay for expenses. Team SuperNova sent letter thanking PC for financial contribution.

6. **Parent Council Members** : Ivana and Alison will be standing down after their 2 years. New representatives for these positions would be welcome.

7. **Rights Respecting Schools Award**: run by Unicef. Idea is award raises awareness of children's rights and improves school experience for children. Steering group set by staff and pupils. Have held launch assemblies, now going to select 6 rights agreed as most relevant to then be promoted within the school. Audit will be completed and an action plan created. Award will be externally assessed. RRSA website is worth visiting. PC members offered to contribute to steering group.

8. **Parent Council Questionnaire** – Will go out in May with school newsletter. **Ivana will contact office to check date and request questionnaire details be circulated.** Will request returns in 2 weeks. Confidential box to be set up in school for paper copies to be returned. Link to be put on PC section of school website. **David to put questions and to do list to office.**

AOCB: Councillor Shergill advised he is new to education committee now as vice convenor. He is meeting school head teachers to offer assistance. Looking at other schools to inspire changes within Boclair. Longterm possibly Boclair could become a STEM speciality school and promote links with local businesses and universities. PC agreed with idea of specialism but also need to remember issues with fabric of building. PC discussed promoting good practice to P6 families before they make decision to use private education from P7. Suggested improving school website and promoting school through local newspapers. Possibly ask pupils to write articles for newspaper (potentially with a parent helping). Local housing – Greenspace money may be available rather than education money but possibly school could take ownership of some local space

Dates of next meeting: Mon 23rd May 7:15pm