



## Boclair Academy Parent Council Minutes

Monday 25th January 2016

**Present** - Ivana Bhattacharyya ( Chairperson) Alison Bennett (Vice Chairperson) Suzanne Chase , Gaynor Miller , David Murphy , Aileen Paterson , Kathleen Seath (minutes) Ruth Candy , Annette Weaver, Gillian Birse, William Traynor, Charles Gordon , Jane paterson ,Elaine Johnston ,Moir Paterson and Fiona Lockhart

**In attendance** - Douglas Brown (HT)

**Apologies** - Joanne McArthur ,Ann Mckenzie , Isobel Lightbody , Jen Crockett (DHT) Andrew Peoples ( Head boy) and Rachel Tang (Head girl)

1. The meeting was opened by Ivana Bhattacharyya who welcomed everyone.
2. She also said that the Parent Council was still waiting for someone to take up position of clerk. This has been communicated and highlighted again but no response to date.
3. Previous minutes discussed - Seconded and agreed by Charles Gordon.
  - Building update following visit by Jim Corrigan - Douglas Brown informed the group that there had been a visit from Jim Corrigan and items discussed included PE block facilities. Electrics for ground floor, explained reasons for recent problems with the swimming pool but said that these were now rectified Also confirmed that two water coolers had been replaced in canteen and PE department.
  - Litter - Douglas Brown informed the group that there was an initiative from Pupil parliament to address the issue. Discussions took place regarding the support that could be offered by the Parent council and Ivana Bhattacharyya agreed to compose a letter on behalf of the group and send out for review.
  - School website - Updates now completed
  - Accounts - Laura Lyons has updated on website
  - School buses - Previous issues and some concerns raised at last meeting. Douglas Brown confirmed that there had been a visit from the campus officer and the continual monitoring by the senior management team continued. The route used by the buses particularly access onto Boclair Road had also been checked and cleared by SPT EDC and Police Scotland. Douglas Brown also said that any problems are immediately reported by the school direct to the company and responded to promptly.

- Maryhill Food Bank - Continues to be supported by donations via the school and can all pupils be encouraged to donate. This will continue until communication from EDC Council.
- Insurance / PVG is possibly required for Parent council - Clarification required re necessity of this for Parent council as they are not directly in charge of any events but discussions have taken place elsewhere in EDC regarding this . Confirmation of this is required will hopefully be decided following Forum for EDC at Turnbull High in Bishopbriggs on March 7th. Any volunteers to attend please let Ivana know.
- Survey questions - David Murphy confirmed that the survey monkey that had been sent out to all members of the parent council was working. All agreed that it included good questions. He said that it had been suggested that there was also a free text option. It was discussed that perhaps this was put on the website, a link via Twitter, URL and also a hard copy sent out. D Brown confirmed that the school survey for improvement was planned for the end of February. It was agreed by those present that a plan for the Parent Council survey should ideally be agreed prior to next meeting 29th February and proposed for it going out after Easter. This would hopefully mean that it is then completed by the last meeting planned for 23rd May. This has now been resent to Parent Council for review.

#### 4. Head Teacher's report

As a result of an issue with the school heating the school was closed early on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This was resolved during the course of the day and the fault is now fixed. As a result there was a burst pipe which caused the heating in PE to be off for five days. This has also now been resolved but there was an impact on learning and teaching over those days. There has also been an issue with the swimming pool which has now been resolved and we expect the pool to be back to normal over the next few days.

Prelims in the Senior School have now started for S4 – S6. These will take place over the next two weeks in the lead up to the February weekend.

Pupil Council have recently been discussing two major issues – litter and proposed changes to the school's curricular structure. The Head Boy and Head Girl are currently on Study Leave but will hopefully make the next meeting.

Christmas dances, Christmas concert and the school's Rewards trip prior to Christmas were all excellent. Congratulations to the staff and pupils concerned for their hard work and engagement in the many events in the lead up to the Christmas holiday.

S3 Junior Prefects have been appointed over the current senior school exam leave. This was a difficult choice as there are so many young people who would have made excellent Prefects who were not chosen. Pupils were selected from across all class groups to ensure and equal coverage. Those who missed out will get a further opportunity during the next exam diet.

The Boclair Foodbank is up and running again this month. All donations will be gratefully received by Class 2C.

The Positive Pathways event for parents and the Positive Pathways event for pupils have both now taken place. A number of external partners supported the school at these events for young people interested in pathways after school other than university. The events were very successful.

Bocclair's S4 Mentoring programme is about to start. S4 pupils will be offered a staff mentor to support their preparations for the final exams. Individual pupils will be targeted for this support but it is open to all.

S5 Mentoring programme is taking place using senior pupils. This involves senior pupils visiting classes and supporting S5 pupils in their preparations by providing advice, tips and information on preparing for S5 examinations.

A Medics Against Violence Programme of lessons was delivered by trained S6 MAV Interns to S2 classes before Christmas. This was a very successful initiative organised by the Guidance Team to address issues of safety in our communities. A similar programme for S5 is being developed following the 16 days of action events.

A Curriculum questionnaire has been used to seek the views of young people in S1 and S2. This was overwhelmingly in favour of the proposed move to a 9/7 model. This will now be discussed with staff on the in-service day and then with pupils at Assembly. Following this similar staff and parent questionnaires will be used to seek the views of other stakeholders.

### **A.O.B**

5. Homework - This was raised and discussed at length by those present. There are some concerns that children are receiving inconsistent amounts of homework. It was also said that there was an understanding that this was to be standardised as per policy. D Brown said that he would take forward the comments raised tonight by the Parent council with Departmental heads.

6. Class downtime - Concerns were raised regarding as to how pupils had a lot of downtime in classes recently and how they had subsequently spent their time. This included the recent issues with pool and many classes prior to Christmas holidays.

7. Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. A request was made for information regarding opportunity to participate in Silver award.

8. Ivana thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Date of next meeting Monday 29th February at 19:15