



BOCLAIR ACADEMY Parent Council Meeting

Monday 27.11.17

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Gillian Birse, Ruth Candy, Suzanne Chase, Jacqui Clark, Denis Johnston, Aileen Hamilton, Isobel Lightbody, Alison MacNair, Joanne McArthur, Gail Nowek, 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 Flora Thomson

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris opened the meeting and introduced himself as Chairperson and as we had a new member join the group, introductions were made by all.

Apologies were received from: Ann McKenzie, Andrew Shaw, Shirley Fraser

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of 23.10.17 were read over and a few minor anomalies highlighted which will be amended before they are posted onto the web site.

3. East Dunbartonshire Parent Council Forum – 13.11.17

Chris Allen attended the above Parent Council Forum & the information that follows is a brief summary of points noted:

Jackie McDonald, the Head of Education for East Dunbartonshire gave an update on school websites. There was a presentation of Media at the Council and it stated that 75% of people who access the schools websites do so on a mobile phone.

Douglas Brown spoke about the Centralised Content Management System within the council's schools websites. This is things like School Calendars, Meal Prices, On-line payments etc. He advised these things are the same across all the schools, as are the links to things like GLOW.

Chris advised that the design sign off for the new schools websites was 9th November, and that the Council were hoping that the website would be going live in March 2018. Included in the website would be Social Media Guidance online.

Chris also highlighted that there was mention made of the Education Committee suggesting that children bring their own devices to school for use in the classroom. They also spoke of a Help to Buy Scheme. There were mixed views on this within the group. The Education Committee made mention at the meeting that they felt they were not getting meaningful

feedback from the Education Committee of the schools. Douglas Brown said he was surprised to hear this because he felt the Counsellors were always keen to hear the views.

Mention was made of School Governance where they spoke about the Head Teachers budget for hiring staff.

4. School Results – follow on from last meeting

Chris stated that due to time constraints at the last meeting that he felt the group didn't have enough time to congratulate Douglas Brown and his staff for the fantastic results of the pupils for the 2016.17 Season. Again, there was a marked improvement and the group wanted to make it known how delighted we all were with these results. Douglas thanked everyone and was pleased to add that the results of Boclair Academy is an extremely positive story. At the Educational Committee Boclair Academy was described as being "the most improved school over the shortest period of time"

5. School Improvement Plan – Douglas Brown

6. Encouraging parent feedback & involvement

Douglas Brown stated that he likes to encourage parents to join the parent council and highlights the work of the PC at almost every meeting they have with a Parent Forum. He actively encourages the power of the voice of the group. He also spoke of Parent Council having an on-line presence and this will be used more when the new web site is up and running.

7. Benches

Ruth Candy advised that we had received £500 from Bears, we had also received a sum of money from East & West (Councils) and also money from the Flight Path. In total we had received around £3,360. A clearer picture will be given again at the next meeting. Benches have been delivered & built but it is thought that the benches will be installed around February/March sometime.

8. Just Giving Page

Again, due to time constraints this will be brought along to the next meeting and Jacqui Clark will update us then.

9. A.O.C.B.

- i) Gillan Birse asked what was happening with the Xmas Concert. Mr Brown advised that due to a shortage in staff this will not place this side of the year. He is bitterly disappointed, as will be the S6 pupils, but unfortunately, on this occasion, nothing can be done to change this.

- ii) Flora Thomson asked about the timings of the S1 Parents nights. It is currently 4.20 pm – 6.30 pm, timings of which are unhelpful to full-time working parents. Mr Brown explained that they have no control over the timings as these are pre-set by ????? Union
It was asked by one of the group, should it be the policy that parents may only be allowed to attend around 6/7 appointments in the evening so everyone could be fitted in

or should it be that appointments should be reduced from 5 mins to 3 mins each.
Again Mr Brown advised that he has no control over this.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 22nd January 2018 at 7.15 pm in Staff Room.