

Bocclair Academy Parent Council Meeting



Monday, February 29, 2016

Present:

Ivana Bhattacharyya (Chair), Debbie Pipe (clerk), Sarah Douglas (treasurer), William Traynor, Ann McKenzie, Gillian Birse, Kathleen Seath, Paula Hourston, Isobel Lightbody, Douglas Brown (HT), Clare Morgan (DHT), Aileen Hamilton, Gerry Higgins, Annette Weaver, David Murphy

Apologies:

Moira Paterson, Jane Paterson, Ruth Candy, Allison Bennett, Gaynor Miller & Jennifer Crocket.

Meeting opened by Ivana Bhattacharyya and welcomed Debbie Pipe (clerk),

Minutes from last meeting:

Aileen Hamilton seconded last minutes

Matters arising from last minutes:

1. Fundraising document insurances - to be raised at forum next week as East Dunbartonshire Council have pulled the PC & PTA insurance cover from June 2016 and individual groups will have to get their own. Attendees asked if unhappy not to be insured when fundraising - no objections. Discussed taking it out only when needed for larger fundraising events.

2. Update on bins – Allison Bennett contacted council (Jim Corrigan) - there are bins along the discussed routes with ample space for the amount of children using and bins are being collected daily. Douglas advised collections are not daily but will check how often they are being collected via Facilities Management. Email from Council: Litter pick 3x per day. Bins emptied on regular basis, 14 bins on grounds and to school. Additional bins added. Sufficient bins for the school.

Action: Ivana to forward email to Douglas to look into.

3. Duke Of Edinburgh – Coordinator will try to come to next meeting. Parents asked for a list of Silver pupils to be put on the website.

Action: Douglas will speak to staff member.

4. Douglas' report –

- 2 bids - One from Jaguar Challenge (£100) and one from Harry Potter club (£100)

Action: Douglas will pass bids to committee

- Easter Revision to run again on the first 4 days of the holiday, 10am-12pm - bus on from Torrance again. S4-S6 eligible to attend and programme to be decided.

Action: Douglas to speak to Allander (£1 journey).

- Landrover challenge money (£100) - has this been taken?

Action: Ivana to check and confirm.

- Curriculum discussion - S1 & S2 children and parents asked questions - 150 positive responses about 9/7 model. Douglas happy to share responses to those interested. Staff questionnaire to also be sent soon. Parent/staff and pupil discussion group to be considered for curriculum and 33 period week views. (2 parents, staff and a number of pupils - head boy and girl and younger pupils)

Action: Parents to attend - Ann McKenzie and Aileen Hamilton volunteered – meetings mid March and again after Easter holidays.

- Gordon Curry (Director of Education) visit last week - walk around and visited a few classes.
- Building Improvements - awaiting budget setting in local authority.
- Homework concerns from last meeting taken to principal teachers - general agreement re consistency of homework (English and Maths in particular to do some work to address concerns re regularity and consistency of homework set). Question re homework diary sizes - Douglas advised it was pupil choice - they can decide who has which size - speak to Douglas if needed.
- John Muir started with first years today (food bank) - requests particularly for tinned food.

Action: Encourage donations

- Go4set team - new team (current second years) won west of Scotland team competition. Will ask parent council to rehearse again at next meeting.

- Fire Reach - 3rd years spending a week with fire service, learning how to be a fire fighter - 6 boys completed course successfully. Congratulations to them!
- Race night - school fund used a lot for young people who couldn't otherwise attend events. Support required for 18/3/2016 for Race Night. Tickets £5 BYOB. This would be to fund raise for this reason. Flyer has gone home in bags and texts sent out but not much feedback from parents. This could be a once or twice yearly fundraiser. Aimed at adults. Please promote to family and friends.

Action: Clare Morgan to email flyer and tweet again plus all to spread the word, please. Need minimum of 40 people to attend to go ahead. Any donations for raffle also please to Clare Morgan.

- Possible fun run and other charity events in future but need money coming in to school fund.

Sporting successes:

- Under 15s got through to last 16 of Scottish cup.
- S3 netball team got to quarter final stage of Scottish cup (24-21, before being defeated)
- Boclair vocal group, as part of their advanced higher course, are organising an event for Friday 22nd April - venue needed if anyone has any suggestions.

Action: Maxine Trainer to contact the Bowling Club. Clare to speak to Boclair House. Westerton Hall suggested

- Two classroom assistant posts advertised. Short staffed in office as trying to cover admin assistant duties.
- Faculty of advocates in Scotland and Citizenship foundation discussion, feedback awaited.
- Supported study starts this week - plan to be added to website.

5. Finalise questionnaire - all happy to go with distributed questions on survey monkey.

Matters Arising:

1. BAE - apprenticeship programme discussed

Action: Ivana to email details to Douglas Brown

2. Careers fair question - are there any coming up? Douglas advised there is a choices evening and a partnership evening. There is also a STEM Careers event for S4 pupils. Children are taken to a careers event in SECC, Glasgow, which occurs October. Guidance team and PSE addressing this in 'Plan It Plus' and 'My World of Work' software with students. 'University Courses' book lists all available courses and recommended by Ivana.

Suggested LinkedIn account to see advertisements from larger companies. There is also a careers advisor available. 17th March info night for options students - letter to be sent out shortly.

Action: Clare to set up LinkedIn Account and link to Twitter

3. 33 period week discussed again (late days Monday/Tuesday preferred and they wanted their lunch to be late - this latter issue will be discussed again in future).

4. Query re English prelim. For National 5 it has been more difficult. The question was raised regarding what happens if they've sat something too hard for them. Prelims may be sat again nearer time of exam, depending on the class, to get students ready for the exams. The questions were reviewed in advance to soften the level but this could be reviewed further.

5. Question re students not being permitted to take papers away - other schools in the region may purchase this same paper so the school have been asked not to allow students to take them away. They can go over the questions in class, if needed.

6. Breakdown of scores (Maths and Tech) was useful following the prelims. Would have been nice to have this in all subjects. Some may still be coming or were done during class work - reports also coming this week.

Action: Douglas to raise this with principal teachers.

7. Year group focus groups - tried in June - hardly any parents. Needs to be something to focus on. Douglas thinking May is a good time this year and would like to hear from those out with parent council.

Date of next meeting: 7.15-9.15pm 25th April