



**BOCLAIR ACADEMY**  
**Parent Council AGM**

**Monday 25.09.18**

**Present :** Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Ruth Candy, Suzanne Chase, Jacqui Clark, Paula Hourston, Isobel Lightbody, Fiona Lockhart, Alison MacNair, Joanne McArthur, Ann McKenzie, Jane Paterson, Kathleen Seath, Adrienne Shaw, Flora Thomson, William Traynor. Alison Davidson, Elaine Dallas, Allison Nisbett, Graham Murray, Susan Sinclair, Chris Sheerin, R McGovern, Agnierka Lampart, Cllr Denis Johnston. Douglas Brown (HT).

**Chair** Chris Allen  
**Vice-Chair** Alison McNair  
**Minutes** Joanne McArthur  
**Treasurer** Flora Thomson

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chris opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Apologies were received from Duncan Beattie, Aileen Hamilton & Counsellor Vaughan Moodie.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of AGM of 18.08.17 were read over and were approved by Alison McNair and seconded by Jacqui Clark.

**3. Financial Report**

Flora Thomson provided a detailed account of the Parent Councils funds and our balance to date is £1,137.99. We need to have the bank details updated and new signatories required, this will be done in the coming weeks. Chris Allan, Suzanne Chase & Alison MacNair have all agreed to act as signatories.

**4. Head Teacher Report**

Douglas Brown gave a lengthy report of various subject.

**Results**

This has been another fantastic year with the results. Best ever in S4 and best ever in some areas of S5 and best ever in S6. Some highlights are as follows:

Dux – Lisa Chestnutt

Proxime Accessit – Amber Drake

2 pupils achieved 3As at Advanced Higher (3 last year)

1 pupil achieved 6As at Higher

15 pupils achieved 5As at Higher (14 last year)

23 pupils achieved 4As or more at Higher (23 last year)

12 pupils achieved 7As at National 5 (17 last year)

40 pupils achieved 5As or more at National 5 (41 last year)

60 pupils achieved 7 National 5 passes (54 got 8 last session)  
60 pupils achieved 5 As or Bs at National 5 (67 last session)

### **Senior Awards Ceremony**

This took place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Awards are based based on SQA performance across S4, S5 and S6. D Brown thanked the Chair of the Parent Council who joined us on the platform as in previous years and helped hand out awards.

### **Rearranged Concert**

The summer concert took place in September following the cancellation in June. Amazing work from the music team and the drama staff – despite the fire alarm

### **BGE Awards Ceremony**

This took place on Thursday last week. Thanks again to Chris Allen for coming along to support. Great turn out from parents and amazing performances from music

### **New staff**

Art – Miss Kaneez Nazim  
Biology – Mr David Woods  
Business – Miss Sarah Dorrian  
Computing – Miss Danielle Bain  
Geography – Miss Victoria Duncan  
Geography – Mr Matthew Noble  
Maths – Miss Abigail Gasanz  
Modern Studies – Miss Natalie Kerr  
Physical Education – Mr Jack Halley  
Physical Education – Mr Fergus Matheson  
Physical Education – Miss Hannah Morrison  
RME – Mr Michael Avery  
Technical – Mr Scott Porter  
Technical – Mr Kris Mathie  
Business – Ms Rebecca McGregor

### **Other staff updates**

Mrs Ivana Bhattacharyya – PT Support for Learning  
Miss Heather Rankine – PT Health and Wellbeing  
Mrs McGuire – PT Literacy  
Mr Sutton – PT Numeracy  
Mrs Campbell – PT DYW  
Mr Andy Johnston – PT Raising Attainment  
Mr Meek - acting DHT  
Mr McRae – acting DHT  
Miss Joy Brockway – acting PT Physics  
Mr Nick Walsh – acting PT PE  
Mrs Katie Hannah has now returned  
Mrs Janet Docherty has now returned  
Mrs Newlands due to take maternity leave in October  
Mrs Cleisham due to take maternity leave in December

## **Vacancies**

English  
Music  
Wider Achievement  
Chemistry/Biology

## **International Teacher Programme**

We currently hosting two Saudi Arabian teachers from Strathclyde University as part of the Scottish Government International Teacher Programme. Two further teachers will join us in October.

## **Pupil Information**

The overall school roll is now sitting at 970 which is the highest in the last six years.

## **School Uniform**

D Brown thanked all parents for their support in school uniform this session. Pupils look fantastic, particularly with the new ties introduced in August following work by pupil council last session.

## **Good Practice Visits**

Last session staff and pupils visited a range of schools as part of our approach to self-evaluation and school improvement.

Larbert High School  
Balfron High School  
Falkirk High School  
Broughton High School

Further visits planned this session include:

Dalziel High School  
Royal High School  
Stirling High School

## **Trips**

S1 Residential to Lendrick Muir in October  
Battlefields Trip in October  
Iceland Trip in October  
Duke of Edinburgh ongoing

## **Wider Achievement Programme starting:**

S1 John Muir  
S2 Saltire  
S3 Dementia Friend Training / DoE  
S4 DoE / First Aid  
S5 Youth Philanthropy Award / DoE  
S6 MAV Interns / Best Buddies / DoE / Saltire

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## School Events prior to the summer

The Summer Fayre was excellent – thanks to all members of the parent Council for their support  
Grand total raised was around £3000

Senior Prom was also a great success in June – one of the best events hosted by the school.

## Calendar Dates

28<sup>th</sup> September Guidance Welcome Evening

4<sup>th</sup> October S4 Parents Evening

11<sup>th</sup> October Open Evening

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### 5. Confirmation of parent members & email addresses

Chris asked all new members to complete the form with their name and e-mail address. It was highlighted by Chris that the Council actually ask for members' full postal address, but the feeling of the meeting was that unless they specify why they need this, we are happy just to provide name and e-mail addresses of our Parent council members.

### 6. Election of Office Holders

The following roles were re-elected :

|                   |                 |   |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Chair</b>      | Chris Allen     | Proposed : William Traynor, Seconded : Jacqui Clark   |
| <b>Vice-Chair</b> | Alison McNair   | Proposed : Chris Allan, Seconded : Chris Anderson     |
| <b>Minutes</b>    | Joanne McArthur | Proposed : Suzanne Chase, Seconded : Ruth Candy       |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | Flora Thomson   | Proposed : Joanne McArthur, Seconded : Kathleen Seath |

### 7. Proposed dates for future meetings

Chris Allen suggested the future meeting should be :

22<sup>nd</sup> October, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 15<sup>th</sup> April & 3<sup>rd</sup> June. It was also agreed that we would trial a 6.30 pm start, as opposed to 7.15 pm

### 8. Priorities for future meetings

It was agreed that we will have definitive items on the Agenda for each month, the first being Douglas Brown will give a presentation at the October Meeting of recent exam results. At the November meeting Andy Polson from East Dunbartonshire Council will attend & discuss the Asset Action points & realistic timeframes.

### 9. AOCB

#### Fire Alarm

Chris Allan asked if there was an issue with the school Fire Alarm as he was of the impression that it had gone off a few times lately. DB was able to clarify that the school knew the reason behind each case when the alarm had gone off and there was nothing un-towards with the alarm system.

## Wider Achievements

Mention was made of the way these are recognised. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

### **Communication between Parents & Parent Council**

Chris Allen highlighted, in the year since he has taken over as Chair, Parent Council has received only 2 e-mails from parents. Our current team is keen to engage all parents, and this is something that we are looking to address. One of new members Alison spoke about her child's previous school's Parent Council had their own FaceBook page and is going to bring along a list of pro's & con's of FB to our next meeting for discussion.

### **Boclair Swim Team**

Adrienne Shaw advised that she had been approached by a Parent whose child is part of the swim team to see if there is any way that Parent Council could purchase personalised swim hats for the team as when they go to various competitions etc., many of the other schools have these, and our children have nothing. Mention was also made that lots of other schools have personalised sweatshirts/hoodies but again Boclair's swim team do not have anything like this. Joanne McArthur agreed to pick this up as she may be able to provide the swim caps and has a contact to get them personalised, and also the same contact may be able to provide personalised sweatshirts at a reduced costs.

### **Justgiving page**

Mention was made that after all the hard work done by Jacqui Clark in getting this page up and running, nothing much has happened since. We agreed that we are going to reinvent this with a plea to parents that we are keen to purchase a backdrop curtain for the stage in the main hall, certainly in time for the Xmas concert. It is estimated that we would be looking to raise in the region of £600. The school has Music Captains and it was agreed that we would approach them to give us the phraseology for the justgiving page fundraiser. It was highlighted by Alison MacNair that it seems that a lot of the money raised seems to be for music related items only and not any other departments.

As a result of this, it was also agreed that the school would organise "bidding sheets" where each department can bid for the Parent Council to raise money to provide items on their wish lists. This has been done in the past and was very successful, so it is going to be re-introduced and selected departments would present their cases to Parent Council.

### **Work experience**

A parent asked if the school still organised for S4 pupils to go out and do work experience. Douglas Brown explained that East Dunbartonshire had changed this policy and this is not necessarily the case now. D Brown explained how the majority of pupils leaving Boclair move on to University or Higher Education and therefore do not go straight into the work place. That said, he did explain that every child will gain experience of work due to visiting companies coming into Boclair and speaking to the pupils at some point whilst they are in S4.

### **Daily Bulletin**

Ruth Candy asked if the pupils Daily Bulletin could be launched in the Boclair App, as we tend to get differing news from our children, if any at all. This is going to be looked into regarding admin rights etc. and reported back in due course.

### **Boclair Website**

Joanne McArthur made mention of the fact that the Parent Council Section of the website is very outdated. DB explained that the website is not managed "in-house" that any changes etc.

would have to be outsourced. Parent Council have agreed to try and find a solution to this, so that it looks a little more inviting.

**Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 at the revised time of 6.30 pm in Staff Room.**