



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 25.2.19

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Ruth Candy, Jacqui Clark, Aileen Hamilton, Isobel Lightbody, Joanne McArthur, Ann McKenzie, Alison McNair, Toni MacMillan, Allison Nisbet, Kathleen Seath, Adrienne Shaw, Emma Shepherd, Susan Sinclair, Flora Thomson, Cllr A Polson, Douglas Brown (HT), Clare Morgan (DHT) Julie Connelly (teacher)

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 Suzanne Chase, Elaine Dallas & William Traynor.

2. Minutes of Meeting : 21 January 2019

Minutes Proposed by Aileen Hamilton and seconded by Graham Murray.

3. Matters arising from above minutes

Flora Thomson highlighted that the school had been in touch to say that Parent Council still have £396 available to spend of funding that is available to us. It was agreed that this money will be used for the Community Learning Hub that teacher Julie Connelly is heading up. Again, it was reiterated that this money needs to be used before the end of April 2019.

4. Buildings Update

Councillor Andrew Polson gave us an insight on what is planned regarding the building of Boclair Academy. He also informed us that both he and Vaughan Moody would take it in turns to attend our meetings in the future, rather than them double up and both come together. Cllr Polson's advised us that there will be a final budget meeting on 21st March where the revenue will be decided upon. He advised us that remedial work will most definitely be starting at Boclair in June 2019. This will include Security issues, and work on toilets. The school is now 43 years old and most certainly the worst state of any other school in East Dunbartonshire. Cllr Polson's stated that both he and V Moody are personally committed to working with us and get this project started. He advised that he should be in a position to let us know exactly what will be getting done by the time our next meeting comes around. They will have dialogue with PC as the works are ongoing. A likely timeframe for this work will be from June – December 2019. The matter of cleaning was brought up again. Presently there is more than one department that responsible for the deep cleaning of the school. We need to keep on speaking to the Councillors in order that we can have a reasonable level of cleanliness within the school.

4. Head Teachers Report

Results update

Insight – the Scottish Government’s benchmarking tool will be updated tomorrow. This will show the school’s successes related to pupils who left school at the end of last session or prior to the September census date. D Brown offered to update Parent Council at the next meeting.

Staffing

On Thursday of last week Mr Alastair McLure was appointed Principal Teacher of Guidance following competitive interview. D Brown congratulated him on his new post. D Brown also reported that three new English teachers were appointed on a permanent basis. This follows the departure of Mr Bendall and the unfilled vacancy from August along with some additional staffing following the increase in roll. Miss Connelly has now started as our new Principal Teacher of Learning and Teaching and she is also a Geography teacher so will take on Geography classes as well as her whole school remit.

Plans are now underway through workforce planning to ensure the school is fully staffed for August this year. This include trying to address the potential shortage of a computing teacher as discussed with Parent Council in May. Further vacancies will be advertised in due course.

Senior leadership Remits

The remits of the Senior Leadership Team are being reviewed ahead of next session. As part of this process Ms Crocket is currently working with Ms Trainor as part of a transition to take on the Pupil Support remit. Ms Crocket is now leading the P7 Transition process. Ms Trainor is now undertaking the school timetable remit under the guidance of Mr Brisbane.

Resilience screening

There will be a community screening of the Resilience documentary on Thursday of this week – organised by Clare Morgan. This has proven to be hugely popular with all tickets selling out very quickly. However, tickets have been reserved for any member of the parent council who would like to attend and who did not book a ticket.

Prelims

The Prelim diet has concluded and Reports have now been completed and sent home to parents. Attainment at Prelim stage is in line with last session but attainment meetings are currently underway with all Principal Teachers to discuss performances within individual departments and courses.

The Geography Prelim had an error within it and there was an issue with timing. The prelim was also located in the smaller Geography classrooms which proved to be an issue for some pupils. As a result, D Brown and C Morgan met with all Geography pupils and wrote to all parents outlining the issues and how the school will address these going forward. This will include further assessment at an appropriate time to help build confidence prior to the final exam.

Parents’ Evening

The final two parents’ evenings took place over the last two weeks. Attendance was very high and S3 Prefects helped with organisation and the smooth running of the evening. D Brown invited comments on the timings of the evening, the layout and the booking system ahead of planning for next session.

Course Planning

Course planning for S2 has now been completed and S3 will begin this week. Course planning for S4 and S5 will take place in the middle of March.

Bar Mock Trial

The Bar Mock Trial Team will take part in the British finals on the 23rd March. Pupils have been working hard to learn a new case and are working with Laura Reilly from the Faculty of Advocates. Due to teams competing from all areas of the United Kingdom the pupils will have to learn aspects of English Law procedures as well as the Scottish procedures they have been working with.

Prefect Residential

A number of Prefects have been invited to attend a reward residential following their hard work this session. Those invited have attended and contributed significantly to all school events and have consistently turned up for duties to support the school. The residential will once again take place at Dunan's Outdoor Centre in Aberfoyle on 7th and 8th March.

Study Residential

As part of our commitment to closing the attainment gap there will be a study residential on the weekend of 22nd – 24th March similar to last session. This will take place at Blairvadoch Outdoor Centre where pupils will study a range of subjects as well as trying some outdoor learning activities.

Spring Revision

In line with previous years the school will offer study classes for Senior Phase students during the first four mornings of the Easter holiday. D Brown confirmed with the Parent Council they were once again happy to support the transport costs for young people travelling from Torrance by bus.

Community Cafe

Following the appointment of Miss Connelly the school is looking to replicate an idea from Lornshill Academy where there is a pupil led community café run by pupils and for pupils and staff. This uses a learning hub approach with ICT, quiet study area and a university campus type approach. It can also be used for community events such as family learning. D Brown invited members of the Parent Council who might be interested in supporting this to speak to him at the end of the meeting.

Go4Set

Our Go4Set Team were the leading team at the Go4Set Teambuildng event last week. D Brown congratulated the team and wished them good luck with the competition later this year.

6. Just Giving Page

Jacqui Clark advised that the Just Giving Page had raised £1, 168 and this was being used by Jenny Black in the Music Department. It was suggested that we put on Twitter exactly what the money did buy.

It was suggested that our next Just Giving Page could be raised for the Community Hub that Ms Connelly is going to be setting up. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

7. **Facebook**

Chris Allen spoke of the Parent Council Facebook Page. This is purely a holding page which gives information on meetings, agendas, future plans etc. No comments can be added to this page. We have suggested that this page could be shared with other local feeder schools, like Colquhoun, Westerton, Killermont etc.

8. **School Website**

It was highlighted again that the new Parent Council email address has still not been added to the Website. Mr Brown has advised us that we should contact Carol McDonald and make arrangements for this to be done. Chris Allen will take this on board.

9. **Priorities for future meetings**

Mr Brown will give a presentation on the Insight Benchmarking at the next meeting.

10. **A.O.C.B.**

Emma Shepherd made an enquiry of the staff present if they thought mobile phones within the school were disruptive? Ms Morgan made the point that on many occasions the children are actually able to use their phones for research work, and also calculators etc., so no, they did not see them being a problem. She also stated that they do have a Policy on mobile phone use where, if a child is using their phone when they are not supposed to be, the phone is confiscated and returned at the end of the School day. One of our PC parents who is also a teacher, advised that in her class she often has background music playing which she claims aids in teaching.

Spring Fair Date

It was also noted for reference that the Spring Fayre will be Saturday 8th June 2019.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 15th April 2019 at 6.30 pm in Staff Room.