



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 21.1.19

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Duncan Beattie, Suzanne Chase, Jacqui Clark, Elaine Dallas, Aileen Hamilton, Damien Henderson, Fiona Lockhart, Joanne McArthur, Graham Murray, Gail Nowek, Kathleen Seath, Adrienne Shaw, Chris Sheerin, Susan Sinclair, Flora Thomson, Douglas Brown (HT), Clare Morgan (DHT)

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 Ann McKenzie, Ruth Candy, Jane Paterson and William Traynor.

2. Minutes of Meeting : 26 November 2018

Minutes Proposed by Jacqui Clark and seconded by Adrienne Shaw.

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. This has to be used before the end of April. We have asked Mr Brown to organise bidding sheets from departments so we can decide how to utilise this money.

4. Buildings Update

We again discussed the Asset Management Sheet that was given to us from the Council (dated 1.5.18). The majority of items on this sheet have been given no credence whatsoever. Mr Brown explained again that he has seen yet another set of provisional plans from the Council regarding work that is planned for improvements to the school and tried to reassure us that once he is able to share the finer details with us, he is sure we will be happy with it. The issue of space saving within the school was talked about and several options to utilise this space to make more classrooms, but until we are given sight of these plans, we cannot make any comment.

At the end of the day the Security of our children in the School is paramount and it was voiced that we need this issue resolved sooner rather than later. Parent Council would like another meeting with our local councillors in order that we can envisage what they are scheduling for our school.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the Sub-Committee will meet and have a walk round the school to see if we can draw up a list of "quick fixes" that should make a difference to the school. Prior to our last meeting with councillors V Moody and A Polson, the Sub Committee had a walk round the school and took photographs of many of the toilets & other areas that were totally unacceptable, with doors not working, no toilet roll holders, no soap dispensers, and basically very unhygienic areas etc. The school had been promised 2 x deep cleans from the council, and we have been made aware that both of these

have taken place. PC requested permission from Mr Brown to come back into the school and check the progress. We will liaise with Mr Brown to arrange a date & time for this to happen.

PC also requested permission from Mr Brown for the school to send an e-mail to all Parents on behalf of Parent Council, asking them to back us in our work to lobby the councillors into following through the Asset Management Plan that was promised to us last May. We feel many of the parents are unaware of the Security risks that their children are faced with on a daily basis, and many of them having never been in and around the school are unaware of poor hygiene of the majority of our toilets, in particular the PE department.

It is our intention to involve the children and get their views on this too. We asked if we could have a stall at the S2 & S3 Parents night at the end of January & February where we can speak to parent's face-to-face asking for their support in this work in order that we have a fair representation of parent's views. We anticipate having visual images of problem areas so that the parents can understand better the pressing issues and where the work is greatly needed. We intend to draw up a questionnaire form that can be completed and it will be our objective to provide parents with the details of our local councillors in order that they can make direct contact on their child's behalf. A sub-group will meet in the next week to draw up the wording of the e-mail to go out to parents, and design the feedback form that will be issued at the Parents Evenings.

5. Facebook

We spoke about setting up a Facebook information page for all parents where we can post information on the current work of the Parent Council. At this point in time we have agreed that this page would not contain any images and should only allow outgoing messages. Anyone wishing to respond would need to do this via the Parent Council e-mail address which will be noted on this page. Chris Allen has agreed to look into this.

6. Pupil Cycle Route

Damien Henderson spoke to the Group about his wish to set up a safe cycle to school project. The school has now begun the process of applying for cycling friendly status. Once the application pack is completed, this will be sent to EDC and Cycling Scotland to identify what measures are required to encourage cycling to Boclair. At this point Damien will engage with the Parent Council and potentially wider parent groups to ensure that plans are supported by the parent body.

This is an opportunity to dramatically increase the proportion of children who cycle to Boclair HS over the coming decade by identifying and funding interventions including improved infrastructure and education around the environmental and health benefits of cycling.

7. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

D Brown updated the meeting on staffing matters. Julie Connelly has been appointed to the post of PT Learning and Teaching and will also work within Geography. She will start at the beginning of February. Tracey Davidson has taken up post of Librarian and is already working well to support young people. Mel Ryan has been appointed full time in English on a temporary basis. Jen Crocket has now returned to school four days a week following maternity leave. Clare Ramsay has taken on the acting post of Principal Teacher of Biology for the duration of Jen Cleisham's maternity leave. We are currently recruiting for a PT Guidance post. Following the departure of Heather Rankine to Rosshall Jemma Campbell will take on a full PT Guidance role on a Monday and Amanda Daly has joined the Guidance Department.

Prelims

The Prelim exams have started and have gone well so far. D Brown will report on this at the next meeting.

Junior Prefects

Our S3 Junior Prefects have been appointed following interview. They are already working very hard to carry out their morning, interval and lunch time duties. They will also undertake duties at the S2 and S3 Parents' Evenings.

IWIL Up-date

C Morgan updated the meeting on IWIL. An IWIL event will take place on Friday. Eight girls have been selected to take part and will accompany C Morgan to the Tigers Centre in Springburn for the launch which will last the whole day.

ACES Resilience screening

C Morgan reported that there will be community screening of the Resilience Documentary, which explores the theme of Adverse Childhood Experiences and their impact on young people. This will take place on Thursday 28th February in the Assembly Hall. Tickets are free but need to be booked in advance through Eventbrite.

Parents evening arrangements

S1 Parents' night went well at the end of November. The school will continue to use online Parents' Evening Booking System and following discussion with Parent Council last session will limit the S2 parents' appointments to 10 appointments.

Course planning

Over the next few weeks we will undertake course planning with S2, S3, S4 and S5.

Other areas

Our Family learning event for S2/S3 took place on 28th November. This was well attended and which feedback expressed the desire for longer session on the whole the feedback was very positive. The annual attainment meeting took place on the 30th November at 9.30. This went was also a very positive meeting which celebrated the good work of the school. D Brown has already shared this information with parents at a previous meeting.

8. School Website

Due to time constraints – nothing was discussed.

9. Priorities for future meetings

Due to time constraints – nothing was discussed.

10. AO.C.B.

Due to time constraints – nothing was discussed.

Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 25th February 2019 at 6.30 pm in Staff Room.