



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 03.06.19

Present : Chris Allen, Chris Anderson, Ruth Candy, Jacqui Clark, Elaine Dallas, Aileen Hamilton, Fiona Lockhart, Joanne McArthur, Alison McNair, Ann McKenzie, Kathleen Seath, Adrienne Shaw, Chris Sheerin, Emma Shepherd, Susan Sinclair, Flora Thomson. Clare Morgan, Glenn Thomson.

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 Douglas Brown, Suzanne Chase, Jane Paterson & G Murray.

2. Minutes of Meeting : 15th April 2019

Minutes Proposed by William Traynor and seconded by Chris Anderson.

3. Matters arising from above minutes

No matters arising.

4. Buildings Update

Chris Allan had hoped to be able to give us some kind of update, but there is actually a meeting planned for 13th June at the school where the council will give us some timescales of the new build and also about the toilet refurbishments.

It should be noted that there will be no swimming pool in the new build. However, we are advised that there will be the new coffee shop as has been discussed at previous meeting. We will also have bike sheds, and that led to the question if there will be appropriate changing facilities for anyone who travels to school by bike. The question was then asked would there be lockers available for anyone who cycles to school? Mr Brown asked if he could suggest that Parent Council visit other New Build schools to speak to them and find out what works/what does not work.

Chris Allen advised that Bearsden Academy are keen to have a meeting with our Parent Council to share some ideas and suggestions. Would be good to find out what they spent their Parent Council Funds on, and what worked well etc. PC agreed that this would be a good idea, and we will look into this.

5. Head Teachers Report

Ms Trainor has taken over responsibility for the school timetable and new timetable started today. There has been the highest ever number of young people getting first choice subjects but the school will continue to support young people who may have been allocated a second choice subject.

S6 Final Activities

The last day for S6 was fantastic although it was very sad to say farewell. Paintballing was excellent as always and we look forward to prom on Thursday. Leavers hoodies were slightly delayed but they are now being distributed to S6 pupils.

New school

There is currently no further update on the new school but the Head Teacher and PC Chair will meet with education and council officers on the 13th June. Ms Pollock, Senior Education Officer for Secondary schools has offered to meet with Parent Council prior to the summer if that would be helpful. Alternatively members are invited to attend the meeting on the 13th at 2 pm. Further information will be available after the summer if the Parent council would prefer to meet with Ms Pollock at that time instead.

On-going maintenance

While a new school is now being planned issues related to security and toilets will be addressed. EDC staff have visited the school to plan work for the summer to address areas raised by Parent Council.

Staffing

New teachers have started in English - Ms Murray and Ms Sheridan. We have also had notification of new teachers joining the school in Art, Biology, Chemistry, Business and PE. We are currently advertising for a computing teacher after failing to be allocated a newly qualified computing teacher by Scottish Government.

Extra In-service days

Scottish Government had increased the number of in-service days for next session to seven - two more than this year. They are likely to be Tuesday 1st October after the September weekend and Friday 7th February prior to the February weekend. This will be communicated to all pupils, parents and staff once there has been a final decision by EDC.

Survey

We are about to launch another round of parent surveys. This will be in line with the questions used by HMIE when inspecting schools. Should PC wish any additional questions to be added we are happy to do so. The full response will be shared with the Parent Council and the wider parent forum after the summer.

SQA Exams

All pupils returned today from SQA exams. New timetable started today but there will likely be changes to courses following the results in August.

Junior leadership residential

24 pupils took part in the leadership residential last week with a further 24 on the same residential over the next two days. The first trip was extremely successful and the current trip is going well so far.

Paris

The French trip to Paris was a success. There had been an issue with the banking of money and the member of staff responsible for the trip has apologised for any distress caused by this. This was addressed immediately by the school once the matter was drawn to the attention of senior leaders.

Cultural Evening

Plans are in place for the cultural evening on the second last Thursday of June. More details will follow in due course.

Transition

P7 transition work is already underway with several events having taken place. The two day visit for all P7s will take place next Monday and Tuesday.

S1 - S3 Wider Achievement

S1 pupils have been working very hard on their John Muir Award and have been active in the school eco garden. S2 pupils continue to work hard on the foodbank project. S3 pupils continue to work on the Dementia Friend programme.

Professional Learning event

Teachers from across Scotland visited the school last Wednesday to learn about the work of Boclair. This follows Mr Brown speaking at a national conference to share the interesting practice which has led to significantly high attainment and achievement for all young people.

Academy Uniforms

Blazer fitting for next session will take place next Monday and Wednesday. This will be the same as previous years and a stock of blazers will be available for purchase on the night. Any orders for new blazers on the night will be delivered to school for collection at the start of August.

School Improvement

M Trainor will facilitate discussion groups and ask them to complete the SIP Discussion Templates in groups of around 5 or 6.

Summer Fayre

G Thomson will up-date the PC on the work within the school. Areas for Parent Council to consider:

- Parent Helpers on the day?
- Hot food arrangements?
- Flyers being distributed?
- Encouraging donations?

6. Parent Council Forum update

Due to the meeting running on, Chris Allen gave us a very quick update on the Parent Council Forum he attended recently. Discussions were raised regarding school meals. Seemingly the menu has changed, and the pupil's opinion was the change is not for the better. A questionnaire is due to be sent to parents at the end of term regarding this. Boclair Academy is very keen to keep the facility where meals can be prepared on site, and not brought into the school.

7. Summer Fayre Update

Glenn Thompson discussed the Summer Fayre with PC and gave us a list of various stalls that will be present including: Nail bar, pony rides, DVD/Video games, Henna Tattoo, hand made cards and bags, beat the goalie, guess teacher stall, book stall, home baking, home made fudge stall, hair accessory, bbq, tombola & raffle, pie the teacher, bouncy castle, jewellery stall, tuck shop. Parent Council agreed as usual

to run the BBQ stall, and the food for that would be donated by Lock 27 Family Restaurant. All attending thanked both C Allen and C Anderson, for this very kind gesture. Parent Council agreed to put a "team" together to help cover various stalls on the day. The school had prepared leaflets and posters to be delivered in the local area, and Parent Council split them up and discussed which streets to deliver to, to get advertising out as time was of the essence.

8. Priorities for future meetings

This will be discussed at our first meeting next term.

9. AOCB

As per our last minute, the benches at Milngavie Waterworks needed attention; the weather has taken its toll on them over the years. These are benches that had been donated many years ago by parent council. Suzanne Chase will update at the next meeting if her husband has managed to have a look at these and see what would be required.

Flora Thompson highlighted that PC still had £510 in their account, and the school had £537 which needs to be used up. We again reiterated that we will accept bidding letters from various departments within the school for any essential items that they may wish, probably in the region of about £100 (ish) per department.

Chris Allen raised the issue of the School becoming a cycling accredited school. A parent Damien Henderson spoke to Parent Council about this a few months back. We spoke about the need for a small bike shed, and for us to have safe walking routes as well as safe cycling routes. This will be raised again at our next meeting.

Susan Sinclair raised the issue of option forms. Seemingly there was a bit of confusion about pupils not being informed when they were not allocated their first subject choice. We were advised that pupils were queuing to see Mr Brisbane but didn't get any chance to speak to him, so didn't have the opportunity to discuss their options with him.

**Date of next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 23rd September 2019 at 6.15 pm in Staff Room.
This will be the AGM.**