BOCLAIR ACADEMY

PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY 3rd November 2025 6.30pm

PRESENT: Christine Lee, Claire Arthur, Claire Taylor, Dominic Gonzalez, Gaynor Bilton, Graham Murray, Jenny Kerr, Keith Harrison, Kirsten McLatchie, Kirsteen Graham, Sandeep Kaur.

Staff: C lare Morgan, Douglas Brown, Fiona Curran, Glenn Thompson, Grant Irvine, Katie Scott.
Members of the school captaincy team.

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies: Elaine Dallas, Susan Rae, Nick Walsh.

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 15th September 2025 were approved by JK and seconded by CL.

3. **Matters arising**

- GB thanked KG and ED for their continued hard work and support.
- GB thanked CL and KG for attending the S1 open evening with note to bring sweets to future events to encourage parental interest. A suggestion raised at this event was to hold a ladies night in the school with a similar format to Killermont Primary School ladies nights.
  DB will propose to appropriate teaching staff as the event must be led by the school.
- After consultation with Bearsden East Community Council, GB secured £180 funding to purchase the remaining desks for the art department.
  Any other resource issues, staff should contact GB / DB
- Following an email to Greg Bremner from GB, DB received clarity surrounding the possible re issuing of a licence to access and use Scholar. Mr Bremner informed that as it is a local authority licence and there was not sufficient interest to keep using Scholar, it was not financially prudent to continue.
- GB asked for volunteers to attend the S1 parents evening on Thursday 20th November. KG to email members to invite them to volunteer

Angela Thomas (AT), Annette McKenna (AM), Christine Lee (CL), Claire Arthur (CA), Clare Morgan (CM), Claire Taylor (CT), Connor McCauley (CoA), Dominic Gonzalaz (DG), Douglas Brown (DB), Duncan Beattie (DBe), Elaine Dallas (ED), Fiona Curran (FC), Gaynor Bilton (GB), Geoff Miles (GM), Geraldine McGuigan (GMc), Glenn Thomson (GT), Graham Murray (GM),Grant Irvine (GI), Helen Grech (HG), Ian Gallagher (IG), Imran Tabraiz (IT), Jenny Kerr (JK), Jill McIntyre (JMc), Jillian Mooney (JM), Katie Scott (KS), Keith Harrison (KH), Kirsten McLatchie (KM), Kirsteen Graham (KG), Mihir Navalkar (MN), Nick Walsh (NW), Paula Baylis (PB), Polly Mark (PM),Sam Dale (SD), Sandeep Kaur (SK), Sarah Muotone (SM), Susan Johnston (SJ), Susan Rae (SR), Susan Sinclair (SS)

4. Uniforms

Discussion centred on the Scottish Government guidance for school uniform.

- **Cost & Uniform Relaxation**: The main focus was on the cost of school uniforms and the challenges of adapting attire due to factors like climate (uniforms too thin for winter) and difficulty in washing/drying. There was a desire to change / add more options to the uniform list.
- **Security:** There were concerns about security if the uniform were too casual, as it may make it harder to identify students.
- **Equity Concerns**: It was noted that having no uniform at all could exacerbate inequities among students.
  The idea of passing on blazers and uniforms helps promote equity within the school, as it ensures that all students, regardless of financial situation, can access uniforms and feel included.
- **School Captaincy & Pupils' Views**: Members of the school captaincy team shared feedback from pupils and PC members:
  - Pupils felt polo shirts were inappropriate for high school, as they wanted to dress more grownup and be prepared for workplace attire.
  - Students feel "ready to learn" when wearing their uniform.
  - 6th-year braiding is appreciated as a way to differentiate senior students from others. ○ The change in school tie in S5 symbolizes their seniority.
  - Pupils feel they can still express themselves within the uniform guidelines, and that focus should remain on studies, not clothing.
  - There is a Set Up room in the school with a variety of resources for pupils to utilise.
- **Blazer Options**: ○ It was noted that there is a lower-cost option for blazers (unbranded with a school badge to sew on), which had not been widely known.
  - Wearing the blazer is encouraged, but there is no penalty for not wearing it. ○ Jackets are worn over blazers in cold or bad weather.
  - Students pass on their blazers to others, which supports sustainability and cost-saving.
- **Footwear**: There is no specific footwear policy other than that they have some black in them. It was acknowledged that shoes are often the most expensive item for parents, and the lack of specific requirements in this area was viewed positively.
- **Decision**: ○ Maintain the current uniform policy (status quo), while remaining open to further discussions in the future if needed.
  - Parents will be reminded of the option of purchasing unbranded blazers and sewing on the school badge.

  A member of the Captaincy team will speak to her peers in school via the Cost of Living pupil group and feedback to the PC on how the pupils would like the unbranded blazer option presented to pupils and parents going forward. Parents will then be informed of the unbranded blazer option.

Angela Thomas (AT), Annette McKenna (AM), Christine Lee (CL), Claire Arthur (CA), Clare Morgan (CM), Claire Taylor (CT), Connor McCauley (CoA), Dominic Gonzalaz (DG), Douglas Brown (DB), Duncan Beattie (DBe), Elaine Dallas (ED), Fiona Curran (FC), Gaynor Bilton (GB), Geoff Miles (GM), Geraldine McGuigan (GMc), Glenn Thomson (GT), Graham Murray (GM),Grant Irvine (GI), Helen Grech (HG), Ian Gallagher (IG), Imran Tabraiz (IT), Jenny Kerr (JK), Jill McIntyre (JMc), Jillian Mooney (JM), Katie Scott (KS), Keith Harrison (KH), Kirsten McLatchie (KM), Kirsteen Graham (KG), Mihir Navalkar (MN), Nick Walsh (NW), Paula Baylis (PB), Polly Mark (PM),Sam Dale (SD), Sandeep Kaur (SK), Sarah Muotone (SM), Susan Johnston (SJ), Susan Rae (SR), Susan Sinclair (SS)

Keep the uniform policy under review for future discussions if necessary.

5. Head Teacher Report

Learning Festival success

Boclair Academy once again hosted the second EDC Learning Festival with over 700 teachers attending from across the local authority. There was positive collaboration around effective learning and teaching and moderation, and staff feedback has been really positive. Young people from Boclair Academy once again supported the event in high numbers with over 150 young people attending to help as guides and baristas, and to support moderation activities in different departments.

Learning visits

The SLT are currently conducting a reduced number of learning visits across the school with a small number of staff being visited. A number of focus groups of children have allowed the team to sample views on learning taking place across all subjects.

Attainment meetings

We have completed the process of attainment meetings with all departments – based on the updated insight. The local authority attainment meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th November.

Lendrick Muir success

The S1 residential took place last week and allowed 160 young people to take part in activities at the Lendrick Muir outdoor activity centre. Young people were a credit to their families and the school.

Mock Interviews

S6 mock Interviews will take place in November. Interviews will be carried out by a range of guests from a variety of employment sectors with pupils receiving feedback on the day or shortly afterwards. S6 have been preparing for their interview in PSE lessons and in a year Group workshop session, and this opportunity will give them a 'real life' experience to help improve their interviews skills and confidence for the future. Interview times will be sent to student glow email and posted on teams.

S4/S5/S6 Parents' Evening

Our S4 and S5/S6 Parents Evenings took place last month. This was a good opportunity to discuss the progress of our young people and to look ahead to the Prelims in January. The feedback was extremely positive. One or two parents were unhappy with the timings and we will work with our staff to improve this ahead of our next Parents' Evening.

Pathways Evening

Following on from our S5/S6 UCAS evening in October, where school staff presented on the application process for University, I am delighted to invite you to a further pathways evening later this month this where parents will be provided with information on University applications, college applications, employment and training providers. This will be of particular interest to parents of young people in the senior phase of the school but all parents are welcome to attend.

Supported Study
Our supported study programme for S4-6 pupils began after school today and runs throughout the month of November. There are over ninety sessions on offer across each week and free school buses are being provided to Torrance and Westerton for pupils to return home. The full timetable and arrangements can be found on the school website: Supported Study 2025-2026 - Boclair Academy

Family Learning
Following the success of our junior school family learning event earlier last month we are pleased to invite senior phase parents to a Family Learning event this Thursday, 6th November themed "Preparing for Senior Phase Qualifications". This will offer parents an opportunity to work with staff from various subjects across the school on how to support their child to pass their SQA qualifications. Please note that English and Maths will deliver a similar session later in November in order to allow parents to attend other subjects during this event. Further details and sign up will be communicated later this week.

Cultural Celebration
Our cultural celebration, where we celebrate the diverse range of cultures within the school through music, dance and some incredible food, takes place this week. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

East Dunbartonshire Council Quality Review
Senior Education Officers from East Dunbartonshire Council will visit the school in November to undertake a Quality Review of the work and progress of the school. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of the school and to celebrate the achievements of your children. D Brown invited the Parent Council to attend a meeting with the Review Team the final day and time for this was be agreed by the middle of this week. We look forward to sharing the feedback from the Review Team before the end of this term.

Insight
D Brown provided a detailed analysis of the school's attainment using the key areas of the Scottish Government Insight Benchmarking Tool. Overall the attainment for the school has been strong across all measures when compared to the Virtual Comparator, the Local Authority and the national perspective.

6. Disclosure Scotland

GB explained that due to changes in the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020, new rules are in place that require members of Parent Councils to be PVG checked if they carry out activities which are considered 'regulated' under this legislation. The school and Local Authority are not responsible for ensuring that the Parent Council meet these requirements. Responsibility lies solely with the individual Parent Council. GB sought advice and the response was that Parent Council do not require PVG checks. If anyone has any concerns, either now or in the future, speak with GB immediately.

7. Easy fundraising

GB informed on a new way of passive fundraising. 8000 brands of online shopping will donate part of what you send with them to a cause of your choice. There was discussion on data collection issues when using apps.

Angela Thomas (AT), Annette McKenna (AM), Christine Lee (CL), Claire Arthur (CA), Clare Morgan (CM), Claire Taylor (CT), Connor McCauley (CoA), Dominic Gonzalaz (DG), Douglas Brown (DB), Duncan Beattie (DBe), Elaine Dallas (ED), Fiona Curran (FC), Gaynor Bilton (GB), Geoff Miles (GM), Geraldine McGuigan (GMc), Glenn Thomson (GT), Graham Murray (GM),Grant Irvine (GI), Helen Grech (HG), Ian Gallagher (IG), Imran Tabraiz (IT), Jenny Kerr (JK), Jill McIntyre (JMc), Jillian Mooney (JM), Katie Scott (KS), Keith Harrison (KH), Kirsten McLatchie (KM), Kirsteen Graham (KG), Mihir Navalkar (MN), Nick Walsh (NW), Paula Baylis (PB), Polly Mark (PM),Sam Dale (SD), Sandeep Kaur (SK), Sarah Muotone (SM), Susan Johnston (SJ), Susan Rae (SR), Susan Sinclair (SS)

Action: PC members will be sent the link to download the app and try if they wish but there is no obligation to do so.

8. Date of next meeting

Monday 1st December 2025 6.30pm

9. AOCB

- Christmas hampers: It was suggested that parents could use the QR code set up for the school to donate if it was difficult to send pupils in with donated items.

Action: GB / KG will circulate the link to parents.

- JK raised the issue of safe crossing at the school due to various factors including volume of cars and new parking and speed rules. The school captaincy team voiced their concerns, especially with the younger pupils and have helped many cross the roads. There should be something in place to facilitate safe crossing. It was felt this has been raised multiple times with EDC to no avail; however, KH will contact the community council and GB will raise with IG.

Action: GB email IG

KH to raise with the community council

School captains to raise at upcoming Pupil Council meeting

DB to investigate if there is a travel plan coordinator ○ Buses: questions asked if S1-3 pupils could access the supported study buses when attending after school clubs. DB welcomes discussion as in theory, if there are spaces on the bus, that is acceptable but what happens if no space? Numbers cannot be predicted. GB stated a parent was liaising with a local bus company as to whether a public bus could add a small detour into the school as part of its route.

Action: GB to email IG to ask for advice / assistance on the local bus amendment.

- JK asked for clarification for S1 parents in the form of an overview of the school trips available to allow for planning and saving. DB is happy to share upcoming trips with a caveat that this is subject to change.

Action: DB send email to parents

The meeting closed at 8.30 PM

Angela Thomas (AT), Annette McKenna (AM), Christine Lee (CL), Claire Arthur (CA), Clare Morgan (CM), Claire Taylor (CT), Connor McCauley (CoA), Dominic Gonzalaz (DG), Douglas Brown (DB), Duncan Beattie (DBe), Elaine Dallas (ED), Fiona Curran (FC), Gaynor Bilton (GB), Geoff Miles (GM), Geraldine McGuigan (GMc), Glenn Thomson (GT), Graham Murray (GM),Grant Irvine (GI), Helen Grech (HG), Ian Gallagher (IG), Imran Tabraiz (IT), Jenny Kerr (JK), Jill McIntyre (JMc), Jillian Mooney (JM), Katie Scott (KS), Keith Harrison (KH), Kirsten McLatchie (KM), Kirsteen Graham (KG), Mihir Navalkar (MN), Nick Walsh (NW), Paula Baylis (PB), Polly Mark (PM),Sam Dale (SD), Sandeep Kaur (SK), Sarah Muotone (SM), Susan Johnston (SJ), Susan Rae (SR), Susan Sinclair (SS)