



## **Annual Report of Balerno High School Parent Council for the Annual General Meeting 25 September 2017 at Balerno High School at 6.30pm**

### **1. What is a Parent Council?**

Every parent /carer of a pupil in the school is automatically a member of the Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is the body which appoints the Parent Council to run matters on its behalf.

As per the information on [www.sptc.info/](http://www.sptc.info/) (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) the main responsibilities of the Parent Council to the Parent Forum are:

- To share information about the PC and its activities
- To invite parents to be involved in PC activities, such as subcommittees
- To ask for opinions on issues relating to the school community
- To represent all views in an equal and fair way
- To invite participation in how the PC is organised and how it operates, for example making changes to the constitution
- To be inclusive and recognise the diversity in Scottish schools by involving all types of parents.

The first duty of the Parent Council is to represent the views of the parents at the school. Other things the Parent Council gets involved in include:

- Supporting the work of the school, for example, by advising the school on its policies
- Being involved in the appointment of senior staff
- Promoting contact between all parents and the rest of the school community
- Discussing anything that's of interest to parents
- Ensuring all parents from different backgrounds are listened to and understand what the Parent Council does

### **2. Parent Council Members**

For the 2016-17 session PC members were:

#### Parent Members

Caroline Anderson

Andrea Brewster (Acting Chair from May 2017)

Jessica Bryce

Tony Foster (Chair – retired May 2017)

Mike Humphries (retired May 2017)

Yvonne Jarron

Sanjay Kallat (Vice Chair, retiring Sept 2017 but continuing as PC member)

Peter McLean

Paula Miller

Christine Paterson

Peter Reekie (Treasurer)

Staff Member  
Mrs Michelle May

Community Member  
Marion Milne (representing Balerno Community Council)

Neil McCallum (Headteacher) or his deputy also attends every meeting.

Thanks go to

- Mike Humphries who served on the Parent Council for many years and provided a lot of website and technical support. He retired when his daughter left Balerno High School and therefore couldn't be a parent member any more.
- Sanjay Kallat for his role as Vice Chair and for continuing as a PC member for this next session.
- Tony Foster for the time he served on the Parent Council and for his role as Chair. Thank you for all his work beyond the regular meetings with recruitment, consultations and many more meetings attended!

It's important to have a representative spread of parents on the Parent Council – representing different year groups and geographical areas. The Parent Council would welcome new members (usual term of office is up to four years).

Please note that all parents and carers are welcome at Parent Council meetings as observers if your preference is not to become a Parent Council member.

### **3. Parent Council Meetings 2016-17**

The Parent Council met on five occasions, three meetings in Balerno High School and one each in Ratho and Kirknewton Primary Schools.

The minutes of all meetings (and copies of any presentations given) are all available under the Parent Council section of the school website ([www.balernochs.wordpress.com](http://www.balernochs.wordpress.com)).

Topics discussed during the year included:

- Staffing, vacancies and recruitment
- School uniform
- School behaviour policy
- Communication (included a sub group which met outwith the Parent Council setting to discuss further with school staff)
- Exam results (prelims and final SQA results)
- The school calendar (key dates are now published on the school website)
- The move from Wisepay to ParentPay
- The Scottish government consultation on 'Governance review'
- Course choices
- Introduction of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)
- Changes to SQA assessments
- Work experience

Presentations were given by the curricular leaders in

- Science
- English, media & drama

The Parent Council was also involved in the appointment of a new Depute Headteacher in June 2017 and congratulate Ms Ranger on her appointment to the post.

#### 4. Parent Council Meetings 2017-18

The following dates have been identified for Parent Council meetings in this session:

25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (Balerno High School)

30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Balerno High School)

4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Balerno High School) \*\*Note a changed date from originally posted on the website\*\*

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 (Ratho Primary School)

12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Kirknewton Primary School)

14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (Balerno High School)

Topics to be discussed in this session include:

- Participation in the Edinburgh Council informal consultation on
  - School catchment review
  - School estate
- Participation in the Scottish government consultations on proposed changes to education and funding
- School Improvement Plan
- A presentation by the Health and Wellbeing Faculty (October 2017)

#### 5. Participation beyond the Parent Council

When possible a Parent Council member also attends SWLG (South West Locality Group) meetings where representatives from Parent Councils and Headteachers from our local area have an opportunity to meet together.

The meetings are a helpful forum to share ideas, consult each other on similar issues and opinions are fed into the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents) – an Edinburgh wide group meeting in Edinburgh City Chambers which provides a forum for parents from across the city to discuss citywide and national issues with council staff and other groups.

#### Accounts

6. The accounts were presented (as below) by Peter Reekie

##### Accounts 2016-17

This year's accounts are as follows:	£
Balance brought forward.	2,770.49
Income received from CEC	852.96
Interest income	1.36
Expenditure	0.00
Year End Balance	3,624.81
Proposed donation to School	1,500 (agreed at 2016 AGM and still outstanding)

It was agreed to discuss finances further at the next PC meeting where a decision would be made on whether to increase the proposed donation to the school given minimal expenditure items pending.