

PARENT COUNCIL AGM REPORT – Monday 7th September 2015

Agenda AGM

Apologies

Minutes of last AGM

Chair introduction, parent council remit and report

Accounts

Election of office bearers

Close of AGM

Meeting of Parent Council

Matters Arising from last PC meeting

Head Teachers Report / School Update including exam results & Wave 4 refurbishment

PSA Report

Senior Pupils Perspective

Community Council & Local Updates

AOCB & Date of next meeting

WHAT IS A PARENT COUNCIL?

A Parent Council is a group of parents in a school who represent parent views and work in partnership with pupils, the headteacher and the local authority to achieve the best for pupils at that school.

The role of the Parent Council is to:

- support the school in its work with pupils
- represent the views of all parents
- encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
- report back to all the parents in the school (called the Parent Forum)
- play a role in the appointment of headteachers and depute headteachers
- support the school and pupils during school inspections.

Parents have a key supportive role to play in assisting the headteacher and school staff in their aims to raise standards of education and to secure improvements in the quality of education provided by the school. The education provided must take account of the whole needs of the child in respect of developing a child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. School education is about more than the

curriculum and includes the school's provision for social, cultural and recreative activities and for physical education and training.

The Parent Council can support the work of the school in a variety of ways. It can:

- be involved in drawing up the school development plan and consider how parents might support its
- consider ways parents can be involved in children's learning to improve achievement
- build positive relationships between parents and school staff
- support the school in consulting with the wider parent forum on school policy decisions and other matters
- use its own formal and informal channels for communicating about school events and how parents can become
- fundraise to provide additional equipment and resources for the school
- facilitate school events and work with the head teacher and staff to devise events which are enjoyable, encourage parental participation and that suit the needs of parents and fit into their
- The Parent Council may also be involved in consulting the Parent Forum about the full range of school policies, e.g. in relation to uniform, drugs, school ethos, etc. It can collate the views of parents and report them to the headteacher of the school and to the education authority as appropriate.

Given Parent Councils' role in representing the collective view of parents, the education authority must consult them on their arrangements for a complaints procedure. Parent Councils can also make general representations on matters arising from individual complaints where these raise issues of a wider policy or strategic concern.

MEMBERS OF THE PARENT COUNCIL

After the last AGM the Council members were

Tony Foster, Jessica Bryce, Peter Reekie, Liz Carrie, Mike Humphries, Sanjay Kallat, Denise Scougall, Mandy Irvine, Karen Craig, Rhona Baird

Others attending over the year included (apologies for missing anyone) Linsey Middleton, Sue McLeod, Richard McLeod, Lisa Sweeny, Karen Craig, Simon May, Cara Kennedy, Matthew Williams, Karen Gilhooley, Rhona Baird, Yolanda Montero, Karen Scott, Neil Langhorn, Lauchie Scougall, Sally Cavers, Marion Milne, Bill Henderson, Ricky Henderson, Dominic Hyslop Claire McGlynn, Lindsay Fullerton, Graeme Sives, Rehana Shanks, Ruth Douglas, Catherine Humphries, John Thomas, Karen Murray

The typical agenda looks like this

Matters Arising from last meeting

Head Teachers Report / School Update

Senior Pupils Perspective

Agenda Items

Community Council & Local Updates

AOCB & Date of next meeting

Minutes of last AGM

Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council AGM and meeting 02/09/2014

Present; Tony Foster (TF), Mike Humphries (MH), Liz Carrie (LC), Marion Milne (MM), Jessica Bryce (JB), Lindsey Middleton (LM), Graeme Sives (GS), Rehana Shanks (RS), Rhona Baird (RB), Sue McLeod (SMcL), Richard McLeod (RMcL), Karen Gilhooley (KG), Lisa Sweeney (LS), Karen Craig (KC), Denise Scougall (DS), Sanjay Kallat (SK), Peter Reekie (PR).

AGM

TF opened the AGM and thanked all parents and staff for their contributions over the past year. Congratulations were offered to the whole team at the school for another successful year.

Minutes of Last AGM

Passed

The Chair of Parent Council submitted their report

Accounts

Passed

Election of Office Bearers

TF, MH and LC agreed to continue in their roles as there were no other candidates for election. TF stressed that if parents would like to become an office bearer at any time they should just come forward. Useful also to have successors in place.

AGM Meeting closed

Chair of Parent Council Report 2014-2015

I'd like to thank all outgoing Parent Council members for the work you have done on behalf of the school, thank you.

Particular thanks to Liz Carrie and Mike Humphries who stand down as office bearers at this AGM.

Thanks to all those who are supporting the work of the school by remaining on the Council and we welcome any new members tonight.

EXAM RESULTS

At the start of the year figures from the school using the old method would suggest that 50% of S4 pupils gained 5 or more National 5 qualifications.

73% of pupils gained 1 or more Higher putting Balerno in the top decile for results. This was the best outcome since 2002 (when electronic records began). 48% gained 3 or more Highers which is the best ever result. 24% gained 5 or more Highers, results which are amongst the best ever.

S6 performed to expectations.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

During the year we were advised about advanced transition, rights respecting schools level 2, the Improvement Plan and focus on attainment, the implementation of COE, and HMIE follow up inspection.

We were particularly impressed with the consultation on broad general education and the change of the timetable. We facilitated and encouraged parent/carer concerns on some of the changes to subject choices, with presentations in Science of particular note. We actively advise parents/carers to deal directly with the school on any issues relating to their child's education or issues rather than the Parent Council, but are happy for general issues to be reported back to the PC (ie storage of bags etc.) with comment if appropriate.

AWARDS & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Our chair attended and spoke at the academic awards and welcomed the successful Christmas performance, Les Mis, the achievement awards and achievements of the school externally.

CONSULTATIONS

The Parent Council expressed their doubts over CATS, which was not implemented to the time frame suggested, but advised the school and local community council to monitor any issues about assurances made. We also did some work on the quality of Kirknewton buses and concerns raised by pupils/parents and carers. We consulted on EC Vision For Schools and proposed catchment areas for the school. We also promoted the Balerno Community Consultation and have asked for feedback on the school and actions that can be taken.

SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

The PC were glad to hear and support the new all weather pitch, replacement windows programme, LRC improvements and moves to be part of wave 4. We particularly appreciate the Pitch Fever campaign and the work put in by everyone involved, especially the lead Liz and Rehana took.

COMMUNICATION

We had Parent Council meetings in Balerno, Kirknewton and Ratho. We produced one newsletter, utilised wisepay e-mail and maintained facebook and twitter to communicate to parents/carers. We recognise the limitations to our website and agreed to merge with any school website developments. Communication can always be improved but if we are made aware of any issues we do act on it as quickly as we can.

THANKS

Our thanks go to all staff of the school for their hard work over 2014-15 and to those who left or retired after many years service after our last PC meeting.

SETTING THE AGENDA

- Items for 2015-16 will be the Councils PC Self Evaluation.
- Preliminary discussions have been around a willingness to meet parents/carers at school events and build on the current Balerno consultation. This will provide focus for the PC how we can help the school beyond 2016.
- We would also like to run transition advice for parents in feeder primaries with children coming into primary and high school education.
- Last year we also cut meetings down from 6 to 5 – allowing for more participation at meetings that feed into education policy. Members of the Parent Council to please take note.

Future dates

7 September	Balerno
2 November	Balerno
11 January	Dean Park
7 March	Kirknewton Green Room
9 May	Balerno

Accounts 2014 -15

This year's accounts are as follows:

	£
Balance brought forward.	3286.00
Payments received.	
From CEC.	852.96
Interest.	0.61
	Total £4139.57
Outgoings	
Refreshments AGM.	51.96
Fliers for #pitchfever.	170.88
Donation to school fund.	2000.00
	Total £2222.84
Current Balance.	£1916.73