

## Balerno High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

7<sup>th</sup> March 2011

<b>Attending:</b>	Francis Barkey	Chair
	Kenny Cairns	Parent Member
	John Craig	Parent Member
	Sue McLeod	Parent Member
	Chris Merchant	Parent Member
	Clare Atkins	Parent Member
	Susan Stride	Staff Member

<b>In attendance:</b>	Rory McKenzie	Head teacher/adviser to PC
	Jim Gladstone	Depute Head
	Kate Amos	Head girl
	Alastair Paisley	Councillor
	Ricky Henderson	Councillor

<b>Apologies:</b>	Liz Carrie
	Marion Milne
	Donald Craigie
	Sue McEwan

2. Minutes of previous meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011, were agreed with no amendments.
3. School Report – separate report attached.

R M reiterated his thanks to Graeme Bruce and PKF UK for their recent generous donation of IT equipment to the school.

RM also gave some more details on the cuts to secondary schools revenue budgets. These cuts will result in funding reduction of £2.4 or £3.1million for Edinburgh's secondary schools.

Head teachers have met with the Director of Education and are participating on working groups for Janitors, secondary school management and business support. RM has been asked to sit on 2 of the working groups.

On the business support suggestion of merging 3 posts to 2 RM pointed out that this doesn't actually affect Balerno HS as there is no bursar post here. However there are many schools this does affect and who are concerned by this change.

School management costs – the Council is hoping to push this through very quickly i.e. next 2-3 weeks so that the saving can be realised for August. However if this timeframe cannot be met then expected savings will come from Family and Children's Budget not school budgets. Letters will be issued shortly to all janitorial, business support and principle teachers to gauge the level of interest in Voluntary Early Retirement. NOTE: 1 depute and 8 principle teacher posts to go – teaching posts will remain.

4. Senior School Report – Kate Amos, Head Girl, reported on the following:

S6 Question Time for MSPs – this successful event had been held in the school earlier in the day. KA reported that there had been 12 questions tabled in advance but there wasn't enough time to put all 12 questions due to the level of debate.

S6 Fashion Show – this will be held on Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar in the Drama Studio. Models and comperes have been picked.

Comic Relief Day Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Mar – there are a number of fund-raising events planned – one of them is a leg waxing session for the S6 boys and 1 male teacher. The 1 male teacher will be voted for by pupils.

Three S6 pupils are going to Budapest as part of the Comenius project.

5. CCWP – next meeting Tues 8<sup>th</sup> March. RM/FB will be attending. One of the main items on the agenda will be the proposed refurbishment or replacement of the current Gaelic Primary provision in Edinburgh. This is currently housed within Tollcross Primary School.

6. PSA Report – no report provided.

7. Community Council Report – Marion Milne provided a report for this which FB ran through in Marion's absence.

Discussion which arose from this was as follows:

- Buses arrive too early at the school too early for the end of school day pick up which results in traffic problems – FB advised that this should be directed to the Community Police Officer
- Litter problems in the village – Councillor Paisley will ask community wardens to patrol the village at lunchtime to encourage pupils to dispose of their litter properly
- The Community Council are still looking for a pupil from the school to sit on the Council. KA suggested taking the request to the current S5 group now

8. Councillors' Reports - Councillor Paisley spoke about the rugby club usage of Malleny Park. There are known drainage problems but there may be labour available to help correct this. However it would take engineering expertise to ensure this labour was correctly utilised. FB thought that he could arrange some consultancy to take this forward free of charge. Councillor Paisley also noted that there is currently no funding for materials. Although he also noted that SRU + WREN are currently giving 100% grants.

RM updated on Malleny Park that the school are unhappy that Currie RFC is using areas of the field which the school use for athletics for training instead of using the rugby pitches.

There have been on-going discussions on this subject in terms of where and when training should take place. Currie RFC blame the council for failing to take proper care of the grounds e.g. the area where the club practice their scrummage techniques is in very bad repair.

The Chair of the RFC claims to have effected repairs but these are not apparent. Further discussion ensued around the whole question of who has jurisdiction over Currie RFC and what, if any, sanctions can be enforced on the club if they don't comply with the school's requirements.

Final decision was that RM would email FB officially to highlight the on-going aforementioned issues and Francis will contact the council.

Councillor Henderson reported that he'd attended the last Community Council meeting where members there had expressed their desire to offer assistance in lobbying CEC to help the school maintain current community activities in this difficult economic time.

Councillor Henderson also raised the council's new letting pricing structure which may reduce school income. There is a £45,000 to £75,000 reduction in the offering but income targets will remain the same. To put this in the context of Balerno HS this would mean that the school would not be able to offer any subsidised or non-paying classes at all. RM noted that he'd already asked for a targeted review of community high schools in this arena.

9. Eco-Sustainability Issues - CA reported that she would contact Viv McKay in the school office to find out what input the school eco committee would like from the PC. Marion Milne has already agreed to sit on the eco committee along with CA.
10. PC Web Site – this has now been created but is currently password protected. There was a discussion on whether or not pictures of PC members should be published – this was agreed. It was also agreed that short pen pictures of members would be useful. Members are asked to provide pen pictures to the web designer Sue McLeod. FB thanked Sue for all her hard work. SMcL confirmed that she would share publishing access with other members of the PC as and when it was appropriate.

11. Clerk Fees Recovery - Liz Carrie, Treasurer, has applied for these.
  
12. AOB – RM issued the S1 Forum Parents’ Comments from 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 which generated some discussion as follows:
  - Chris Merchant asked if the PC were happy with the outcomes and PC members who had attended these events previously were able to confirm that in the main the same subjects were raised each year
  - RM noted that only 25 parents had attended the event. Jim Gladstone thought this was because many of the S1 pupils have older siblings so parents would have attended the forum previously
  - John Craig noted that there was a high percentage of non- catchment parents at the forum
  - RM mentioned that the P6/P7 evening at Dean Park Primary school had had a very good turn out
  
13. Date of next meeting – Mon 9<sup>th</sup> May.