

AGENDA 02.02.15

Present

Apologies

Previous minutes, accuracy, matters arising

Headteacher Update (through Chair Tony Foster)

- **New curriculum**
- **CATS & Transition**
- **Pitchfever**
- **School library, 3G pitch & window replacements**
- **School roll**
- **Creative Scotland project**

Reports – Senior Pupils update, Local reports

AOCB

Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council meeting 03/11/2014

Present: Tony Foster (TF), Mike Humphries (MH), Marion Milne (MM), Jessica Bryce (JB), Graeme Sives (GS), Simon May (SM), Denise Scougall (DS), Cara Kennedy (CK), Matthew Williams (MW), Mandy Irvine (MI),

Apologies: Ricky Henderson, Liz Carrie, Sanjay Kallat, Rehana Shanks, Dominic Hyslop, Bill Henderson,

1. Senior pupil update

'Baldeen' raised c. £600, to be confirmed.

6th year students are finding it difficult to study in school as it's very busy. They are now able to leave school early where timetabling permits.

Junior and Senior pupil councils have just been set up. There are plans to establish a Fair Trade group (meeting 11/11).

'Wants' from senior pupils include better communications and more organised trips. Students are keen to help with the Pitchfever campaign.

2. Pitchfever

Simon May (Head of PE) attended the meeting to talk about Pitchfever – he will head up the campaign.

The aim is to raise £150k to replace an old blaes pitch with a 2G artificial surface. It is hoped that 50% of the funding will come from a Sport Scotland 'legacy' grant, meaning that £75k must be raised locally. A range of fundraising activities are planned and several additional grants are being sought. The deadline to apply for the Sport Scotland money is 01/02/15 and the locally raised money needs to be in place by that point.

The £150k will cover lights and goals, but probably not equipment for other sports (e.g. tennis nets).

The intention is to position the new pitch as a community facility and to provide access outwith the current Edinburgh Council letting process. The details of exactly how this will work and how the facility will be managed and maintained are yet to be established.

It is recognised that the timescale for fundraising is very aggressive. The meeting felt that thought should be given to what will happen to any money raised if the Sport Scotland grant isn't secured – e.g. give it to the PTA, continue fundraising to raise the whole sum required, etc.

The Parent Council will remain interested in this project but won't take a formal role.

3. Review of broad general education

Graeme ran through some potential timetabling and organisational changes that would allow the school to respond positively to opportunities created by Curriculum for Excellence. These are still under discussion within the school and more details will be provided in due course.

The meeting was keen to ensure that any changes are communicated and explained effectively to parents. One option is to hold open evenings. The Parent Council is happy to act as a sounding board for any proposed communications.

4. Head Teacher's update

The Standards and Quality Improvement Plan has been signed off.

A new Head of History has been appointed to replace John Kerr (who has retired), starting in January.

A further meeting regarding replacement of the school's windows has been held with Edinburgh Council. An update from them on next steps is awaited. North Edinburgh Childcare (out-of-school club provider) will be impacted when the window replacement process starts.

An HMIE inspection visit is due in the near future.

Wellington Special School is closing. It was expected that this would make some extra budget available to Edinburgh schools, but this money has now been withdrawn. Money promised for staff development is not coming either.

5. Other business

Tony asked for feedback on the newsletter he issued after the last meeting.

Liz Carrie is involved in current discussions regarding possible catchment area changes.

There is a feeling (although unsubstantiated) that Balerno seems less successful than other schools in securing Edinburgh Council spend. Improvements to the fabric of the school would help Balerno to attract additional pupils.

Jessica is interested in attending recruitment training.

Dates of future meetings

02/02/15 at Ratho Primary School

30/03/15 at Kirknewton Primary School

25/05/15 at Balerno