

## **Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council meeting 30/03/2015**

**Present:** Tony Foster (TF), Mike Humphries (MH), Marion Milne (MM), Jessica Bryce (JB), Sanjay Kallat (SK), Rehana Shanks (RS), Peter Reekie (PR), Denise Scoughall (DS), Lauchie Scoughall (LS), Ruth Douglas (RD), Christine Humphries (CH), Karen Murray (KM), Graeme Sives (GS), John Thomas (JT)

**Apologies:** Ricky Henderson, Bill Henderson, Liz Carrie, Dominic Hyslop, Karen Scott

### **Presentation on Science Provision by Ruth Douglas, PT Science Faculty**

A Review of Science provision had taken place and found that not all pupils were receiving their full entitlement to a Broad General Education (BGE) as set out in CfE (Curriculum for Excellence). Currently, 1 teacher was covering all 33 EO's (Experiences and Outcomes) only at Level 3. Time restrictions meant there was no time to support the poorest or stretch the best. The limited experience meant pupils were less able to make informed choices between the sciences. The new provision will allow all 3 sciences to be covered up to Level 3 and some to level 4 by the end of S3. Each science will be taught by subject specialists. By the end of S3 pupils will have a solid foundation and better understanding of the subjects. The classes will be set by ability in S3, removing the need for bi-level/tri-level classes. There is more potential for Interdisciplinary learning projects. The provision will better match to the Nat 4/ Nat 5 exams.

RD answered the following questions from the meeting;

Q; What other schools are working in this way (3/3)?

A; All Schools in Scotland are moving to this model. Some education authorities are dictating this model.

Q; The timings in S3 are cut to 3hrs per week. Why?

A; Over the course of S1-3, all 33 EO's will be covered instead of over S1-2.

Q; Are the 13 week blocks run in parallel?

A; They will be run in rotation, the order of which will vary. There are a total of 37 weeks over s1-3.

Ruth was thanked for her presentation.

### **Head Teacher's update**

#### Louise Duncan

Graeme noted the sadness both for him and the whole school community at the untimely passing of Rev Louise Duncan. She will be greatly missed.

#### Les Miserable

GS also gave credit to the recent production of "Les Miserables" which involved 130 pupils from both the High School and Primary school. He Commended the work of the Drama teacher Mr Coulson.

#### After School Provider

GS commented on the move of the after school care facility to the Riverside Café, noting that it had gone well.

#### Window Replacement

The window replacement had started that day and 1 classroom had already been completed. The programme will continue over the Easter Holidays. UPVC windows are being installed.

#### LRC improvements

A new space next to the LRC has been created at a cost of £30,000. It is to be available for use by S6 and as a new teaching space.

#### 3G Pitch

The new 3G pitch is to be available from 13 April, with an official opening on Fri 22 May.

### Broad General Education

As there was insufficient time at the meeting to give a full explanation of BGE (Broad General Education) as it relates to what is happening at BCHS, GS referred interested parties to the Education Scotland website, specifically; Building the Curriculum 3, CfE Briefing – Be at the Heart of your Child's Learning: a Guide for Parents and Carers, Nationals in a Nutshell, Highers in a Nutshell.

### Pitchfever

£70k has been raised, £8 to go. Still awaiting the Sports Scotland decision.

### CATS

There is a delay to the new letting system, with the school continuing to control lets until this is in place. This is likely to be around 12 months. CLD (Community Leisure Dept?) now have control of the former community budget.

## **Other reports**

### Community Council

MM reported that she had attended the SW Neighbourhood meeting.

### Kirknewton Buses

The Buses have been inspected and reviewed and some improvements have been made. Further monitoring will continue.

### Ratho primary

RS reported that Claire McGlynn will be leaving Ratho to take up a new appointment in Falkirk.

## **Parent voice**

MH proposed discontinuing the current parent council website and moving to use of facebook and twitter as an alternative.

25/05/15 at Balerno