

## **Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council meeting 25/05/2015**

**Present:** Tony Foster (TF), Mike Humphries (MH), Marion Milne (MM), Jessica Bryce (JB), Sanjay Kallat (SK), Lauchie Scougall (LS), Graeme Sives (GS), Liz Carrie (LC)

NB. The notes taken at the meeting have been lost so these minutes are less detailed than would normally be the case (MH)

### **1. Head Teacher's update**

#### 1.1 Timetable

GS provided an overview of process, progress made and 2015 improvements.

There is a new S3 curricular package and science classes are set by ability for the first time.

Creativity Skills/Skills for Life, Learning and Work/Employability/Personal Support are all timetabled in Broad General education (BGE) in S1-S3 as per national directives.

#### 1.2 Annual assurance statement

Edinburgh Council Internal audit visited the school over 3 days to focus on Health and Safety issues and compliance across a range of areas, e.g finance, child protection, planning. This was part of their response to major issues such as the wall collapse at Liberton High School. The intention is to give additional responsibility to Head Teachers rather than to the Director of Education.

The visit was a success.

#### 1.3 Annual achievement evening

This will be held next week. There are a significant number of awards this year, many going to those who contributed to the highly successful production of Les Miserables. The speaker will be Pam Watson, retiring Deputy Head at Dean Park.

#### 1.4 Improvement planning

The key CEC priorities for 2015-16 are attainment, curriculum development and pedagogy (theory and practice of teaching).

#### 1.5 Wave 4 schools assessment

BHS had not been identified as one of the schools to be assessed as part of the next wave of rebuilding or refurbishing in the Wave 4 project. However, GS challenged this and arranged for submissions to be made. A report was drawn up on these submissions and formulae applied to determine how Balerno ranked in terms of priority against other schools.

GS again challenged the findings based on the criteria used by the CEC team and submitted further evidence. Decisions are awaited on which of 6 schools will proceed to the next stage.

## **2. Office bearers**

LC (Treasurer) and MH (Deputy Chair) indicated that they would like to step down as both are approaching the end of their possible tenure on the Parent Council (Liz's son is in S6 and Mike's daughter is in S5). TF is willing to stay on as Chair for another year.

## **3 Other updates**

MM had nothing to report from the Community Council.

## **4. Future meetings**

The AGM will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 pm at Balerno High School