

## Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council AGM 07/09/2015

### Attendees

Tony Foster (TF) Chair.	Jessica Bryce (JB)
Mike Humphries (MH) Vice- Chair.	Andrea Brewster (AB)
Liz Carrie (LC) Treasurer.	Lauchie Scougall (LS)
Marion Milne (MM) BCC rep.	Paula Miller (PM)
Peter Maclean (PM).	Christine Paterson (CP)

Sanjay Kallat (SK).	Julie Moss(Greer)
Neil Greer.	Lesley Inglis
Alison Caldwell.	Sally Gartside (SG)
Sally Buchan	Peter Reekie (PR)

### In Attendance

Graeme Sives Headteacher (GS).	Lisa Coffey Depute Headteacher
Annabelle MacDonald Headgirl.	Sandy Buchan Headboy
Rehana Shanks Headteacher DPPS	

TF opened meeting and welcomed the all present.

Minutes of last AGM passed - no matters arising

Chair report accepted.

Accounts accepted

### Election of Office Bearers

Liz Carrie stood down as Treasurer. Lauchie Scougall accepted the post.  
Mike Humphries stood down as Depute Chair. Sanjay Kallat accepted the post.  
Tony Foster remains as Chair.

Close of AGM

## **Parent Council meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. There were no matters arising.

## **Headteacher's Report**

### Exam Results

Detailed analysis of exam results is ongoing but there are some preliminary findings.

Achievement in S5 and S6 is best ever.

S5

% of cohort with 1+ H is 75%. Up from 56% in 2011 when GS started

" 3+ H is 53%. Up from 36%. "

" 5+ H is 28%. Up from 19%. "

Results in H English were double the national average and the number of pupils receiving A or B awards was 30% above the national average.

Results in PE, Art and Computing also very good.

S6

Attainment greatly improved.

% of cohort with 1+ H is 78%

3+ H is 64%

5+ H is 42%

% of cohort with 1+ AH is 24% up from 19% last year.

S4

Small dip in performance compared to last year ( 5%) in those attaining 5+ N5  
Some subjects outstanding at N5; 80% of those who sat Physics gained an A pass, 75% of those who sat English gained an A.

Results in Chemistry, French and Media were also very good.

Maths results at N5 were not good. GS has spoken with head of Maths and is meeting other HTs and comparing Balerno results with national and local results. Head of Maths had declined invitation to attend PC meeting.

SG raised parental concerns regarding loss of Maths teachers and large class size ( 45 pupils). GS unfortunate that many pupils having to resist or try and upgrade maths results resulting in a large class. Only other option would have been to tell a number of pupils they couldn't take maths which GS felt was unacceptable. Class currently has 41 pupils being taught by the principal teacher of maths, 2 science teachers and a learning assistant are also available. This solution was deemed the " least worst option".

There will be a full review of maths and pupil feedback will be actively sought.

SK suggested asking CEC to fund another teacher. GS explained this is not an option.

LC suggested supported study type programme. GS explained there is a lack of teacher volunteers.

SK asked about self-led study using online resources. GS commented that some departments doing this.

PR asked if pupil feedback will be validated against what parents report. GS stated this will be discussed with a smaller focus group.

LS asked if school can see exam papers. GS replied that only components are available.

TF requested that head of Maths come and explain improvement plan.

GS reiterated that problem was with N5 Maths, not the infamous H Maths. N5 prelim results were average but no improvement occurred between prelim and final exam which would be expected.

TF asked that all questions regarding Maths be sent to him and that any parent wishing to be a member of a smaller Maths focus group contact him directly.

**TF & GS TO ACTION**

Wave 4 schools refurbishment/ rebuild programme

Balerno was originally not identified as having a need for refurbishment or rebuilding! GS made 2 submissions to CEC but heard nothing. Learned from the Evening News that Balerno is now one of 4 schools to be upgraded over the next 4 years. Most likely that Balerno will be refurbished as no site for new school. Not certain if or when works would commence. However, mechanical plant in the school will reach end of working life in the next 5 years.

Some equipment in CDT is now obsolete but Balerno has obtained parts and equipment from the old Boroughmuir building.

Window replacement

Works went well. An additional £50000 was available as contractors came in under estimate so the Science.Art and CDT side if the building will get new windows too.

Website

Website was very poor. Balerno and Currie have jointly employed a member of staff to deal with their websites. CEC guidelines have to be followed.

LS asked about timescale. GS unsure.

MH reported that LC website has very few hits and suggested that best so,union would be for school website to host PC website. All agreed so PC website will cease in October.

**MH & GS TO ACTION**

### **Senior Pupils Perspective**

Prom and year book committees established.

Set up S6 FB page to help communication. Keen to improve communications with other year groups and increase the relevance of Headgirl and boy roles.

TF PC could help with communication through parents via FB and Twitter.

Want to increase activity of the House Teams.

Reported that pupils were frustrated by lack of activity regarding timetabled courses in June. GS pointed out that colleges provide courses like Psychology and colleges don't start till August. Also, pupils had to get work experience and volunteering sorted out. School now hitting wider achievement targets by restructuring S6 timetable.  
LC asked if a school charity had been chosen. Suggested that school might be the best thing to fund raise for possibly in conjunction with PTA.

### **PTA Report**

Events were the Carol Concert, Quiz night and Fashion Show.  
Quiz Night raised £800. Many thanks to Audrey Jones.  
PTA have supported #pitchfever.

### **Balerno Community Council**

Nothing specifically relevant to the school

RS reported that DPPS PC is very keen on a catchment review and asked if Balerno PC would support this.

LC attending SW Neighbourhood meeting on Wednesday and will raise this issue. MM and RS also attending

Prize giving was raised. Question was is it open to all parents not just those whose child is getting a prize. GS replied that it is open to all, tickets offered to those getting a prize.

JB raised S6 leavers celebrations. Thought there should be more attention paid to the significance of leaving.

TF suggested this be an agenda item for next meeting. Send ideas/opinions to TF

**TF TO ACTION**

Time of meeting raised. 6pm difficult for some. TF requests opinions re start time be sent to him.

**TF TO ACTION**

**Date of next meeting 02/11/15 in LRC Balerno High School**

**New Parent Council is**

**Chair - Tony Foster**

**Depute Chair - Sanjay Kallat**

**Treasurer - Lauchie Scougall**

**Liz Carrie**

**Mike Humphries**

**Paula Miller**

**Peter Maclean**

**Christine Paterson**

**Jessica Bryce**

**Peter Reekie**

**Marion Milne**

**In attendance**

**Graeme Sives**

**Rehana Shanks**

**Sandy Buchan - Head Boy**

**Annabelle MacDonald - Head Girl**