



Email: balernoahspsc@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting of Balerno High School Parent Council 12th March 2018 at Balerno High School at 6.30pm

PC members

Parent members

Andrea Brewster (AB) (Chair), Peter Reekie (PR) (Treasurer), Mandy Irvine (MI), Christine Paterson (CP), Fiona McDougall (FM), Alastair MacLennan (AM) (Vice Chair), Paula Miller (PM), Elaine McMaster (EM)

Co-opted Community member

Marion Milne (MM)

Staff members

Neil McCallum (NM) (Head Teacher), Michelle May (MM) (PTC English, Media & Drama), Lisa Coffey (LC) (Deputy Head Teacher)

School staff

None

Senior pupils

Annie Bowes (Head Girl), Ben Wilson (Head Boy), Rhona Craig (Deputy Head Girl), Morven Greer (Deputy Head Girl), Duncan Cameron (Deputy Head Boy)

Councillors

Graeme Bruce (GB)

Apologies

Caroline Anderson, Blanca Nieto, Yvonne McEwan, Jessica Bryce, Susan Webber (Councillor), Martin Petty (BVT - Balerno Village Trust)

Arriving later to talk about CEC's South West Schools Review

Yvonne Kerr (YK) (DPS PC rep), Angharad Storrie (AS) (Kirknewton PC vice chair), Ishbel Smith (IS) (parent)

Introduction and Welcome

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting 04.12.2017 were agreed to be an accurate record.

2.2 Having received the sad news of Mike Humphries' very recent death, AB re-iterated the tremendous contribution Mike had made to the Parent Council over many years. He attended every PC meeting throughout his parental involvement with BHS, which drew to a close only recently. His unassuming but consistent contribution included much work around the PC web site. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family.

2.3 LC confirmed the SurveyMonkey questionnaire about Key Adult Time, and proposals to re-use the time currently allocated to the Pupil Support Period, had been sent to all parents

& carers. AB suggested that PC could put a reminder on the PC facebook account. LC hopes to start analysing responses w/b 19th March.

Head Teacher report

3.1 Mr McCallum gave his report (see separate attachment, 'HT Report_12 March 2018').

3.2 NM expressed gratitude to all who had helped get BHS back up and running after the recent snow closure including janitors and one of our local farmers.

3.3 There was a short discussion around the takeover of out-of-hours running of BHS sports facilities [excluding 2G] by Edinburgh Leisure. The 'after school but before out-of-hours' slot 4-6pm weekdays will be managed by Active Schools. Evenings and weekends are destined to be run by Edinburgh Leisure. South West Swim Scheme, which runs swim classes attended by many local children, will be run Monday-Friday only, under Active Schools.

3.4 PC noted that this is quite a significant change as for very many years, children's swim classes have also been offered at the weekend. PC also noted this could have an impact on the Health and Wellbeing of children unable to attend as a consequence of these changes. There was similar concern voiced around losing 'out of hours' public swimming sessions such as the Early Bird 7am swim which has a longstanding group of attendees.

Head Boy / Head Girl report

4.1 The pupil Senior Team presented the results of their recent whole-school survey about the Pupil Support Period, PSP (please see separate attachment 'Senior Pupil Team Survey Report' and accompanying presentation 'Senior Pupil Team Presentation_12 March 2018'). The presentation finished with a summary of what they have achieved as a team this year as well as plans for their last few weeks in office. These include an assembly for the current S5s about sixth year responsibilities and preparing a handover pack for next year's Senior Team successors, to help them hit the ground running.

4.2 Parent Council thanked the Senior Team for their service and notable contribution this year, echoed by NM who expressed what an excellent team they have been to work with; and explained that their pupil survey will be included in the School Improvement Plan.

4.3 Prom will be on Wednesday 6th June.

4.4 Our very best wishes go with the Senior Team and all Leavers.

Financial Update

5.1 The PC account contained £3,625.61 at time of meeting.

5.2 PR confirmed RBS have finally resolved issues around PC signatories. PR, AB and CP are therefore now official signatories.

5.3 PC approved the immediate donation of £2,000 by cheque to BHS with a mandate to use as appropriate. NM said it was likely this would be used towards school trips for pupils who otherwise would be unable to participate.

YK, AS and IS arrived for the South West Schools Review discussion.

Facilities Meeting Review

6.1 NM confirmed this was in progress in line with all other non-PPP CEC schools and concerns the duties of janitorial and cleaning staff, looking at shift patterns, start times etc.

6.2 One proposal had been for janitors to start at 7am, however BHS fed back that this would make it impossible to open up the school for existing purposes (e.g. Early Bird swimming, clearing snow!)

6.3 YK commented that Dean Park have written to CEC saying they do not wish any changes to be made to existing arrangements.

South West Schools Review

7.1 PR left the meeting to avoid conflict of interest.

7.2 All schools and community councils other than BCC have now had their consultations.

- 7.3 One of the main concerns is around any 'emerging proposals' coming out of these consultations, which so far have not been subject to the same rigour and publicity as the original published City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) proposal.
- 7.4 There is an extraordinary meeting of CEC's Education, Children & Families Committee (ECF) on 29th March to which any affected community council and PC can send a deputation.
- 7.5 An office bearer of the organisation has to apply to attend.
- 7.6 Each organisation is allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to speak, with a total time allocation of 1 hour for all deputations. Therefore if many organisations apply, the total time allocated to each deputation may be much smaller than 10 minutes.
- 7.7 Up to 4 people can attend per deputation (though not all have to present; some may wish to field questions instead).
- 7.8 Though BHS parents echo many of the sentiments expressed by Currie High School it was felt that each school's situation differed (in that the CEC published proposal impacted them very differently) so in order to represent BHS parents and pupils it was probably most appropriate to send a separate deputation.
- 7.9 There were discussions around whether to create a combined deputation with the feeder primaries. CP commented that Ratho Primary may have slightly different interests (some parents are happy with the existing arrangement, to feed into BHS, but others would prefer a new high school located in Ratho Station).
- 7.10 An emerging suggestion was that each school could apply for their own deputation but with a request that feeder primaries & BHS should be heard in sequence. This was generally felt to be a good approach, if the request is granted.
- 7.11 There was a short discussion on the history of BHS's condition, identified in 2017 as a 'Wave 4' school which could qualify for some funding, and now re-categorised as 'B grade'. It was noted that the 'retain status quo' emerging proposal would probably result in no refurbishment for BHS.
- 7.12 IS gave suggestions around how to plan a deputation.
- 7.13 It was noted that the heating system had recently been upgraded representing a considerable investment in the future of BHS.
- 7.14 GB asked what needs refurbished. AB commented that practical areas have not changed in the 40 years the school has been open. Toilets are also frequently cited. There is also the issue of suitability as well as condition.
- 7.15 The CEC outcome report on the informal South West Schools Review consultation, forming the subject of the extraordinary meeting on 29th March, will be issued no later than 23rd March.
- 7.16 In order to respond to the outcome report appropriately, PC and all available feeder primary representatives [unfortunately this date falls within West Lothian Easter holidays] will meet on Monday 26th March to prepare the deputation.
- 7.17 Timeline after 29th March is: Next meeting of CEC Education, Children and Families Committee is on 22nd May when recommendations will be brought by CEC officials. These recommendations may be influenced by the meeting on 29th March. Depending on the recommendations, the proposals may move to a Formal Consultation stage on 22nd May. It was noted that any Formal Consultation must include a specific number of school weeks.
- 7.18 MM commented that those present at the South West locality meeting had expressed discontent about the consultation process to the Process Improvement Officer.

Date / Time of next meeting

Monday 26th March, 7-9pm, Balerno High School, LRC (Learning Resource Centre).
Note this will focus solely on preparing the deputation to the extraordinary meeting of Children & Families Committee on 29th March. This ECF meeting is an open meeting starting 10am in City Chambers.

Next regular Parent Council meeting is Monday 14 May 6.30pm in the LRC at Balerno HS.