



Minutes of Balerno High School Parent Council Meeting 14th May 2018 at Balerno High School at 6.30pm

PC Members

Parent members

Andrea Brewster (AB) (Chair), Peter Reekie (PR) (Treasurer), Alastair MacLennan (AM) (Vice Chair), Elaine MacMaster (EM), Jessica Bryce (JB), Blanca Nieto (BN), Trish Lumsden (TL), Utibe Udoh (UU), Fiona McDougall (FM), Christine Paterson (CP).

Co-opted Community member

Marion Milne (MM)

Staff members

Neil McCallum (NM) (Head Teacher), Ros Ranger (RR) (Deputy Head Teacher), Michelle May (MM) (PTC English, Media & Drama)

School Staff

None

Senior pupils

None

Councillors

Ricky Henderson (RH)

Feeder School PC Representatives

Angharad Storrie (AS) (Kirknewton PC Vice Chair)

Apologies

Mandy Irvine, Yvonne McEwan, Paula Miller, Susan Webber (Councillor), Graeme Bruce (Councillor), Neil Gardiner (Councillor)

Introduction and Welcome

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Minutes and Matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting on 12.03.18 were agreed to be an accurate record.

Head Teacher Report

3.1 NM provided the following update:

Staffing Update

New Staff

Mrs Fiona Duncan – Food and Health Technology Teacher – has now started.

Staff Leaving

Mrs Karen Thomson (Social Subjects CL) - Secondment as DHT to Berwickshire High School
Mrs Danielle O' Donnell (Geography) - St Modan's High School

Mrs Rebecca Kelly (Chemistry)
Mrs Karen Maitland (Biology)
Ms Kate Farrell (Computing)
Ms Kelly Caddow (English / Media)
Mr Jonathan McKenna (PE)

- Maternity leave
- Maternity leave
- Edinburgh University
- Daniel Stewarts Melville College (Head of Media)
- Pitlochry High School (CL of HWB)

Staff Arriving

Mrs Rosie Harvey – Jamieson
Probationer
Probationer
Probationer
Probationer
Probationer
History (Vacancy)
PE
English

- Acting CL Social Subjects
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- History / Modern Studies
- Maths
- Either probationer or vacancy to be advertised
- 37 applications and interviews 23rd May
- Interviews 22nd May

Edinburgh Leisure

No further update at this point.

Events and News update

SQA Exam diet – This is now well underway and has been progressing well to this point.

Raising Teens with Confidence – V Wright and S Ferguson along with parental support have been delivering another six-week course this term.

Successes / News

Commonwealth Games

S5 pupil Lucas Thomson was a successful member of the Team Scotland Diving team. He took part at the games on the Gold Coast in Australia last month. His results were:

Men's 1m Springboard final – 12th
The Men's 10m Synchro Final – 5th
Men's 10m High Board Final – 5th

Heriot Watt University Leadership Award

The following pupils were nominated and received their awards in the staffroom at break today.

Sarah Wells 5M1
Beth Muir 5B1
Harri Kallat 5M2
Jack Lamb 5C1
Abigail Barton 5C2

The winners as decided by the Board of Studies were Sarah and Beth, they will go forward to a finals day at Heriot Watt University on 5th June.

Dance Show

We had two sold out performances from the pupils on the 21st and 22nd March. Thank you to all staff, pupils and parents involved in making it such a success.

Spring Concert

The spring concert was a wonderful evening for displaying the talents of our excellent pupils. It was a well-attended event and lots of positive feedback was received in support of the music department.

S1 Football Team

The S1 football team have progressed through to the Edinburgh schools League cup semi-final and the Scottish Cup Plate semi-final.

Career Ready Graduation

Congratulations to three S6 pupils who all graduated at the Perth Concert Hall;

Alasdair Hemesley 6M1

Alex van Ee 6M1

Mairi Smith 6C1

Hats for Kira

On Friday 4th May an amazing £624 was raised. Therefore, we donated £1000 supplemented from the charity fund raised over the year.

PTA Contribution

The PTA have contributed to the following departments following their fundraising efforts this year. The following department received a donation of £400:

- Modern Languages
- Music
- Art
- Science
- Social Subjects

Upcoming Events

May

Monday 14 New Timetable starts

Monday 21 Holiday

June

Tuesday 05 Senior phase parents evening

Monday 11 Wider Achievement Awards Evening

Thursday 14 P7 Parents evening

Tuesday 19 P7 Transition

Wednesday 20 P7 Transition

Thursday 21 P7 Transition

Friday 29 End of term (12.00)

3.2 AM asked if the level of staff attrition was unusual. NM confirmed that of staff leaving, all are pursuing good opportunities that would further their careers, or secondments / maternity leave.

3.3 EM asked if a sports day was taking place. NM replied that these are taking place shortly for the various year groups and that this and other key dates are listed on the school website. PC noted that it may be helpful to issue a reminder to parents that this information is available on the website.

Other Reports

4.1 Balerno Community Council

MM indicated a Community Plan is now on the BCC website and comments are invited from the community. The South West Schools review has been taking up a significant amount of the BCC's time in recent months. There are some concerns over the number of evening classes that have disappeared in recent years, so the community are encouraged to voice any concerns.

4.2 South West Locality Schools Group (SWLG)

AB and MM attended a meeting on 9 May where City of Edinburgh Council made a presentation on their health & wellbeing strategy.

4.3 PTA

No update provided

4.4 Feeder Primary Schools

The Head Teacher at Kirknewton Primary is leaving at the end of the summer term. A replacement is being sought.

4.5 Local Councillors

RH updated the PC on some recent instances of anti-social behaviour involving teenagers. Although there is no suggestion that pupils from BHS were involved, NM is to ask the Community Policeman to speak to pupils regarding keeping themselves safe.

Financial Update

5.1 Nothing to report

PR is to provide AB with a note of the current bank balance.

Update on South West Edinburgh Schools Review

6.1 AB noted that a meeting of affected schools took place during w/e 11th May to ask staff for feedback from an educational point of view.

6.2 AB also noted that the next meeting of the Education, Children & Families Committee will take place on 22 May. The papers for this meeting are due to be sent out over the next few days (5 days prior to the meeting) and the PC will need to review these. AB asked PC members to look out for information regarding this and to respond with views / concerns as soon as possible.

6.3 PC discussed the current condition of the school. AB is to chase City of Edinburgh Council to provide the condition surveys for the school which have not yet been provided.

Update on school timetable changes and Pupil Support periods

7.1 NM indicated that the new structure for Key Adult Time (the pupil support periods) has commenced today. NM indicated that the school will review how successful this has been in October.

2018-19 session Parent Council meeting dates & times

8.1 Proposed dates for the meetings in 2018/19 were discussed and agreed as follows:

10/09/18 (inc AGM & possible staff presentation on STEAM lessons for S1 & S2; parental involvement in the school in relation to DYW [Developing the Young Workforce]; review of recent SQA exam results)

29/10/18

26/11/18

21/01/19

11/03/19

13/05/19

8.2 The PC will advertise these dates to parents.

8.3 AB is to explore the possibility of holding the meeting in November at Ratho Primary, and March at Kirknewton Primary.

Look back at Parent Council work over the past school session

9.1 PC held a discussion around the value of staff presentations at PC meetings. Additional presentations will therefore be invited from other school departments throughout the year as PC regard these as very valuable.

9.2 AM is to make a short presentation to parents on the role of the PC at the P7 Information Evening on 14th June.

9.3 PC will consider the use of Survey Monkey to capture parental opinion going forward.

9.4 NM provided an overview of the work being undertaken on the School Improvement Plan, which will be submitted by the end of June. This defines the vision for the school over the next 3 years and how the school plan to achieve this. NM indicated he is putting together a short guide on this for parents.

9.5 The PC will consider the use of working groups to support this initiative from September.

9.6 NM also advised that the school will receive £16,000 additional (PEF) funding, to be focused on those pupils who meet the criteria for free school meals. In addition, the school are trialling

participatory funding, where pupils have the chance to have a say in how small amounts of funding are spent. The school are also trialling the use of the 'Sumdog' maths application.

Milk Lite - electronic homework diary

10.1 The PC held a discussion around the merits of the Milk-Lite electronic homework diary. The PC were generally supportive of this, subject to wi-fi being available to pupils throughout the school to ensure no pupils are disadvantaged (as mobile device data would be required if no wi-fi is available).

AOCB

11.1 RR provided a brief overview of the community project planned for pupils. S1-3 pupils would undertake litter picking in the immediate vicinity of the school in the lessons after lunch, while S4-6 pupils would do this via assisting during the Key Adult Time (pupil support periods) and RME classes. The PC were supportive of this initiative.

Date / time of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10th September 2018, 6.30pm at Balerno High School, including the PC AGM.

DRAFT