



Annual Report of Balerno High School Parent Council for the Annual General Meeting

10 September 2018 at Balerno High School at 6.30pm

1. What is a Parent Council?

Every parent /carer of a pupil in the school is automatically a member of the Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is the body which appoints the Parent Council to run matters on its behalf.

As per the information on www.sptc.info/ (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) the main responsibilities of the Parent Council to the Parent Forum are:

- To share information about the PC and its activities
- To invite parents to be involved in PC activities, such as subcommittees
- To ask for opinions on issues relating to the school community
- To represent all views in an equal and fair way
- To invite participation in how the PC is organised and how it operates, for example making changes to the constitution
- To be inclusive and recognise the diversity in Scottish schools by involving all types of parents.

The first duty of the Parent Council is to represent the views of the parents at the school. Other things the Parent Council gets involved in include:

- Supporting the work of the school, for example, by advising the school on its policies
- Being involved in the appointment of senior staff
- Promoting contact between all parents and the rest of the school community
- Discussing anything that's of interest to parents
- Ensuring all parents from different backgrounds are listened to and understand what the Parent Council does

2. Parent Council Members

For the 2017-18 session PC members were:

Parent Members

Caroline Anderson

Andrea Brewster (Chair)

Jessica Bryce

Mandy Irvine (retiring September 2018)

Sanjay Kallat (Vice Chair, retired Sept 2017 but continuing as PC member)

Trish Lumsden

Alistair MacLennan (Vice Chair)

Elaine MacMaster

Fiona McDougall

Yvonne McEwan

Paula Miller

Blanca Nieto

Christine Paterson

Peter Reekie (Treasurer, retiring September 2018 but continuing as PC member)

Utibe Udoh

Staff Member

Mrs Michelle May (also p/t Deputy Headteacher)

Community Member

Marion Milne (representing Balerno Community Council)

Neil McCallum (Headteacher) and at least one of the Deputy Headteachers also attend every meeting (Ros Ranger, Lisa Coffey or Michelle May [also fulfilling role of staff member]).

Thanks go to Peter Reekie for his role as Treasurer and for continuing as a PC member for this next session.

We also remember Mike Humphries who served for many years on the Parent Council until May 2017 and who sadly passed away in February 2018. Our thoughts and condolences continue to be with his family.

It's important to have a representative spread of parents on the Parent Council – representing different year groups and geographical areas. The Parent Council would welcome new members (usual term of office is up to four years).

Please note that all parents and carers are welcome at Parent Council meetings as observers if your preference is not to become a Parent Council member.

3. Parent Council Meetings 2017-18

The Parent Council met on six occasions. The initial aim had been to host four meetings in Balerno High School and one each in Ratho and Kirknewton Primary Schools. However, the schools review agenda and an extraordinary community meeting being held on one of the Parent Council meeting dates necessitated a change in venue to Balerno HS for all meetings.

The minutes of all meetings (and copies of any presentations given) are all available under the Parent Council section of the school website (www.balernochs.wordpress.com).

Topics discussed during the year included:

- The South West Edinburgh schools review proposals
 - This was by far the most time consuming topic of last year with many meetings taking place additionally to the regular Parent Council meetings.
 - Working relationships with the Parent Councils of the three catchment primary schools were strengthened considerably by a lot of collaboration and sharing of work and ideas.
- Parental input into reviewing the way pupil support time is structured. This included considering the results from the whole school survey carried out by the Senior Pupil Team
 - The Parent Council commend the team on their hard work; the helpful and meaningful data obtained from the survey; the excellent presentation made to the Parent Council on the results and the impact the results had in shaping pupil support time in this academic session.
- Implementation of ParentPay and the use of biometric fingerprint data v's 6-digit PIN codes for pupils
- Parent Council presence at parents' nights – meeting parents and gathering opinion under three headings, namely, what would parents / pupils like to see Balerno HS
 - Keep doing
 - Start doing
 - Stop doing
- Changes in management of sporting facilities at Balerno HS (now being managed by Active Schools & Edinburgh Leisure)
- Ongoing review and work on the school website (included a sub group which met outwith the Parent Council setting to discuss further with school staff)
- Exam results (prelims and final SQA results)
- WiFi in schools
- School homework diary

Presentations were given by the curricular leaders in

- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Subjects

4. Parent Council Meetings 2018-19

The following dates have been identified for Parent Council meetings in this session:

- 10 September 2018 (including AGM), Balerno High School
- 29 October 2018, Balerno High School
- 26 November 2018, Ratho primary (venue tbc)
- 21 January 2019, Balerno High School
- 11 March 2019, Kirknewton Primary (venue tbc)
- 13 May 2019, Balerno High School

Topics to be discussed in this session include:

- Participation in the Edinburgh Council statutory consultation on school catchment review
- Continuing to communicate with Edinburgh Council about the condition of Balerno HS; to press the need for financial investment in the school, particularly in the classrooms for practical subjects
- School Improvement Plan
- Access to WiFi for pupils
- Parental engagement in the school
 - Involvement in the life of the school
 - How best to gather parental opinion
- A presentation on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & maths) in October 2018

5. Participation beyond the Parent Council

When possible a Parent Council member also attends SWLG (South West Locality Group) meetings where representatives from Parent Councils and Headteachers from our local area have an opportunity to meet together.

The meetings are a helpful forum to share ideas, consult each other on similar issues and opinions are fed into the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents) – an Edinburgh wide group meeting in Edinburgh City Chambers which provides a forum for parents from across the city to discuss citywide and national issues with council staff and other groups.

Accounts

6. The accounts were presented (as below) by Peter Reekie

Accounts 2017/18

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| This year's accounts are as follows: | £ | |
| Balance brought forward. | 3,624.81 | |
| Donation to School | -2,000.00 | (Chq 012) |
| Expenditure | - 30.00 | (expenses A Brewster Chq 013) |
| Income from CEC | 878.42 | |
| Interest | 1.47 | |
| Year End Balance | 2,474.70 | (agrees bank statement 07/09/18) |