



Email: balernohspc@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting of Balerno High School Parent Council 10 September 2018 at Balerno High School at 6.30pm

PC members

Parents

Andrea Brewster (AB) (Chair), Alastair MacLennan (AM) (Vice Chair), Sanjay Kallat (SK), Jessica Bryce (JB), Peter Reekie (PR) (Treasurer), Paula Miller (PM), Christine Paterson (CP), Mandy Irvine (MI), Fiona McDougall (FM), Trish Lumsden (TL), Elaine MacMaster (EM)

Co-opted community member

Marion Milne (MM)

School staff

Neil McCallum (NM) (Head Teacher), Ros Ranger (Depute Head Teacher), Lisa Coffey (depute Head Teacher)

Senior pupils

Hari Kallatt (Head Boy), Holly Payne (Deputy Head Girl), Jack Lamb (Deputy Head Boy)

Parents attending

Danny Gillan, Sandie Edgar, Adrienne Wilson, Alison Robertson, Dianne Thompson

Apologies

Blanca Nieto (PC member), Yvonne McEwan (PC member), Caroline Anderson (PC member), Michelle May (Teacher rep), Aimee Mcrae (Head Girl)

Introduction and Welcome

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Parent Council AGM

2. 2.1 Annual report & financial update

Andrea Brewster presented the annual report (see separate document) and Peter Reekie gave a brief financial update.

The current bank balance is healthy and a suggestion was made to donate a further sum of money to the school Health and Wellbeing fund. However, as there was a degree of uncertainty whether any funds may be required during the forthcoming Statutory Consultation period for the South West schools review, it was decided to defer the decision until later in the year when it would be clearer if funds were required for his purpose.

There were no questions from those attending.

2.2 Election of Treasurer

AB expressed thanks to Peter Reekie for his years as Parent Council Treasurer. Peter will remain on the PC as a parent member.

AB invited existing members to express interest in the role of Treasurer. As nobody indicated a willingness to take on the role, the appointment will be deferred until the next meeting.

Headteacher report

3. Mr McCallum gave his report. See separate document for a copy of the report.

Head Boy / Head Girl report

4. The senior pupils present were congratulated on their appointment to the roles. They introduced themselves and gave a presentation on the pupil leadership structure, their responsibilities and their plans for the year (see separate presentation 'Head Girl & Boy report' for more information)

SQA results – an overview

5. Neil McCallum gave a presentation outlining a summary of the exam results of senior pupils in the recent SQA exams (May / June 2018). See separate presentation ('SQA results') for more information.

An overview of the School Improvement Plan for 2018-19

6. Neil McCallum circulated a document which summarised the School Improvement Priorities for this session. See separate document ('Summary of School Improvement Priorities') for more information.

Parents fed back that further explanation of some of the abbreviations would be helpful.

PR questioned the focus on numeracy and literacy in the priorities given the recent excellent SQA results in these areas. Should other areas of attainment be prioritised instead?

The priorities (and thought on how parental involvement can contribute to the success of the priorities) will be discussed at a future meeting.

Balerno High School Vision and Values

7. Neil McCallum gave a presentation summarizing the work done to date by staff at an in service day, exploring their thoughts about school Vision and Values and working on a Vision Statement for the school.

Neil circulated a document with suggested vision statements and a list of words which staff felt expressed the school's values.

This work is ongoing and pupils and parents will be invited to get involved and contribute in due course.

Q&A

8. AB invited those attending to raise any questions. While there was insufficient time to respond to each question adequately during the meeting, when appropriate, they will be followed up at a future Parent Council meeting.

- Is there an update on the link with HMFC. What are the benefits to the school?

Neil McCallum commented that it was a mutual partnership. The HMFC pupils benefited from having their school and football training in close proximity; the school roll was increased; other pupils in Balerno HS benefited from work experience through HMFC and there was support for the 2G itch in Balerno.

- Could the school offer additional support for S4 pupils as they prepare for exams? E.g. exam strategies; more information and support for parents? Could this also be cascaded down to S3 to give them more time to prepare for exams?
- How are the existing facilities in BHS affecting Learning and Teaching?
- When will pupils have access to WiFi in school?

Date / time of next meeting

9. Next meeting will be 6:30pm on 29th October 2018, in the LRC, Balerno High School

Note that meetings for the rest of 2018/19 are:

26th November 2018

21st January 2019

11th March 2019

13th May 2019