



Email balernoehspsc@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting of Balerno High School Parent Council Monday 29th October 2018, 6.30pm at Balerno High School

Attendees

PC members

Parents

Andrea Brewster (AB) (Chair), Alastair MacLennan (AM) (Vice Chair), Sanjay Kallat (SK), Jessica Bryce (JB), 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),

Senior pupils

Hari Kallatt (Head Boy), Holly Payne (Deputy Head Girl), Kirsty Williams (School Captain)

Parents/Others attending

Cllr Graeme Bruce, Sandie Edgar, Alison Robertson, Ian Rushworth, Angharad Storrie (Kirknewton Parent Council)

Apologies

Peter Reekie (PR) (Treasurer), Blanca Nieto (PC member), Michelle May (Teacher rep), Cllr Ricky Henderson, Cllr Neil Gardiner

1. Introduction and Welcome

a) Attendance & apologies

2. Minutes and Matters arising

a) Minute taker for meeting -Trish Lumsden agreed to take minutes.

b) Approval of minutes from 10.09.18. Minutes were approved with no requested amendments.

Alison Robertson has agreed to join the Parent Council as a parent member.

3. Senior pupil team report

They are introducing their idea of having a Pupil Year Head - each of the senior pupil team will represent a year group in the school and have a teacher from school management linked with them so they can properly represent all pupils. They are currently presenting this to classes throughout the school. They are giving out surveys so all pupils can air their views and get their voices heard.

They are organising a Health and well-being magazine. HWB ambassadors are Kirsty, Jack & Aimee who have started to write articles. They are also choosing a pupil team to help represent all of the pupils. Applications have been given to those who are interested with a view to holding interviews.

The Prom payment is going live on Parentpay so that pupils / parents can start budgeting for it. It can be paid in full or in two instalments.

All the 6th year hoodies have now been ordered.

S6 area – the next step is to get underway with the painting including a mural on one of the walls.

4. Presentation on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths) in the curriculum and DYW (Developing Young Workforce) at BHS with Ros Ranger (Depute Head).

Hollie Payne gave a brief insight into My World of Work. This is an invaluable online tool which any pupil can access to explore a variety of areas - career options/volunteering/work experience/career ideas, CV's etc. We have 6th year ambassadors to help showcase this initiative to the rest of the school. To sign up a pupil only needs their name, school and email address and it only takes 10 minutes. It gives life guidance and inspiration and is amazing for people who don't know what they want to do when they leave school. It offers online surveys which then match answers with potential job ideas. It is run by Skills Development Scotland. The 6th year ambassadors will be going into PSE classes to promote this initiative. It can also help when writing your personal statement. It could be a very interesting and useful tool for pupils before they make their subject choices.

DYW- was created by Education Scotland, aimed at reducing youth unemployment and ensuring that school children are taught the skills necessary for the workplace. Starts from nursery right the way through primary and secondary education. The labour market is changing and school leavers today may change careers many times through their working lives. Traditional jobs that we are accustomed to may reduce and new roles will be created. We need to ensure that our young people get the skills that employers are looking for. This is one of BHS priorities as part of the School Improvement Plan 2018-2021. We have a great record at BHS for positive and sustained destinations, currently it sits at 98%. Shaun Ferguson and Ros Ranger lead DYW in the school. Pupils need to be able to talk about their skills and knowledge. So BHS is driving DYW through;

- World of work Ambassadors

- DYW events pre- course choicing

- Informing pupils and parents/carers about alternative pathways, for example modern apprentices or FE as a route to HE

- Careers Fair (2019 at Balerno)

- Business Links-

Skyscanner and S2 Art Class are having a 14 week business project

- Two former pupils who studied at Strathclyde did some work with the Higher Design and Manufacture class which has been great for our pupils.

STEAM-Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths

These are areas that have skills shortages in Scotland so we are running STEAM to give pupils more experience in these areas and to try to encourage their interest in these subjects, especially from girls.

We have science teachers running a STEAM lunchtime club which has proven to be extremely popular.

We are hoping that all the work with DYW and STEAM will result in more uptake of these subjects, especially from the girls, when they choose their subjects. There will be lots of DYW events for pupils to make sure they are choosing the correct choices for their future.

Parent/Carers Involvement. BHS would love to have parents or carers come in to the school to;

- Speak to a class regarding your career
- Do mock interviews/help with writing CV's
- Offer work experience

BHS will send out a survey monkey questionnaire asking for support to deliver a DYW experience. They will invite employer/employees who can offer a sustainable link with the school to a Business Breakfast in March 2019.

6. Headteacher report-attached as a separate document.

7. Financial update.

Trish Lumsden will take the Treasurer role.

8. Statutory Consultation on the catchment changes between Balerno and Currie schools.

The proposal will bring Newmills Road/Cherrytrees/Curriehill Castle Drive and Long Dalmahoy Road into Dean Park Primary and Balerno High School catchments. All parents/carers in attendance were positive for this change in catchment.

- a) There will be a Community Meeting on Wednesday 14 November, 7-9pm at BHS concourse.
- b) Parent Council communication with parent forum to encourage people to speak up and give their opinion. Will send another email with a link to the council feedback page saying we are supportive of the changes to catchment and giving some reasoning. The consultation is open for responses until 3rd December.
- c) How can we encourage parental engagement in feedback? Andrea will add info with the link to the Facebook page.

9. Pupil access to WiFi in school

This item will shift to the November meeting due to time constraints.

10. Wave 4 investment programme for schools

Current proposal is to rebuild the school but no funding announced as yet from the Scottish Government.

11. AOCB

Mrs Natalie Tracey who was acting Head is now the new Headteacher at Kirknewton Primary.

The next SWLG meeting is on Tuesday 6 November at WHEC..Marion Milne will attend on behalf of BHS PC.

12. Date / time of next meeting 26th November 2018, 6.30pm at Balerno High School

Colin Hay, Head of Science at BHS will speak at this meeting.