



Email balernohighspc@gmail.com

Minutes of Meeting of Balerno High School Parent Council

Monday 13th May 2019, 6.30pm at Balerno High School

Attendees

Parents (PC Members)

Andrea Brewster (AB) (Chair), Alastair MacLennan (AM) (Vice Chair), Jessica Bryce (JB), Elaine MacMaster (EM), Fiona McDougall (FM), Mandy Irvine (MI), Alison Robertson (AR), Christine Paterson (CP)

Co-opted community member

Marion Milne (MM)

School staff

Neil McCallum (NM) (Head Teacher), Ros Ranger (RR) (Depute Head Teacher), Maree Anderson (Curriculum Lead Creative Technologies)

Parents/Others attending

Cllr Graeme Bruce, Adrienne Wilson, Shiva Cowe, May Zhang, Paula Ryan

Apologies

Parents: Patricia Lumsden, Yvonne McEwan, Caroline Anderson

Staff: Michelle May

Councillors: Ricky Henderson, Sue Webber

1. Introduction and Welcome

a) Attendance & apologies

2. Minutes and Matters arising

a) Minute takers for meeting – AR

b) Minutes from previous meeting (11th march) were approved with no changes

3. Presentation by Mrs Anderson (Creative Technologies)

Mrs Anderson, curriculum lead for Creative Technologies presented about her faculty.

Questions and comments to/by Mrs Anderson:

- NPA are internally assessed and you gain tariff points at level 5 and 6. A stepping stone between Nat 5 and Higher.

- JB asked about Engineering Science: Engineering Science is not continuing to Higher due to staffing and a need to keep a balance between academic and vocational subjects.
- Music lessons are offered in 1st year, pupils interested are 'auditioned' and the music department try and accommodate all children that are enthusiastic.
- JB commented that it is strange that Drama is not included in the Creative Technologies faculty. This is because the school follows the Edinburgh model.
- AB: How many bi-level classes are there? A couple of Higher/Advanced Higher classes.

4. Headteacher report

Staffing Update

Rebecca Boyd Business Education

We wish Rebecca well, as she leaves us to start her maternity leave. We are looking forward to hearing her good news in due course.

Events and News update

Business Breakfast

Many thanks to R Ranger and S Ferguson for organising our first event on Wednesday 20th March. We had over 60 people in the LRC and have had 25 businesses give pledges of support. We even made an article in the Edinburgh reporter;

<https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/03/business-breakfast-aimed-at-building-bridges/>

Successes

Netball Success

Huge congratulations to our S1 girls team, who defeated Dundee High School 26-6 in the Silver level completion of the Scottish Cup, a great achievement.

Diving Success

Lucas Thomson won the Silver Medal at the Dresden International Diving Competition. He also became double British Junior Diving Champion a couple of weeks back when he won the 10m Platform title and also the Boys 10m Platform Synchro title at the British Junior Championships held in Sheffield.

Lothian Disability Sport Track & Field Championship

Finlay Menzies has qualified for the Scottish finals on 5th June in 100m, 200m and 400m. He also took a whopping 2.5 seconds off his 400m PB. He's currently seeded 1st in Scotland and 4th in UK.

S2 Football

The S2 boy's football team lost out narrowly 3-2, to St. Ninian's High school on Tuesday 23rd April, in the semi-final of the Scottish School Cup, Plate competition.

Upcoming Events

May

20th Holiday

June

3 rd	New TT starts
6 th	Wider achievement Evening
7 th	S6 Prom / Leavers event
13 th	P7 Parents information Evening
18 th – 20 th	P7 transition event
26 th – 27 th	Challenge week events
28 th	End of term 12.00

5. Financial update

Signatories are currently being sorted out for the Parent Council account.

There is currently roughly £2500 in the account with money to come in soon from the council.

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

Council meeting went ahead on the 2nd May. Recommendations made have been approved by the council with the addendum that all pupils currently in catchment for Currie and attend Currie, Nether Currie or Juniper Green nursery or primary school will be guaranteed a place at Currie High School if they want it. This is in addition to the sibling guarantee.

It will be a while until BHS sees any changes as we are not at capacity but Dean Park Primary will be affected from August 2020.

AB requested that Cllr Bruce request that a formal notice of the outcome of the consultation is sent to parents.

The new Currie High School plan is moving forward with a new build projected to happen within the next 2-3 years.

There is no information about any refurbishments at BHS. There is also no date for the removal of the portacabins. Cllr Bruce will suggest to the council that when they remove the cabins they extend and resurface the car park. With the school roll projected to increase the extra parking will be required.

The number of teachers at the school is based on an estimate of 'stay on rate' of pupils. The roll is projected to increase from 740 – 765/770 next year. It is projected to increase to 800 in the next few years and this would increase the guidance staffing.

7. Pupil access to WiFi in school

There will be a meeting of the Edinburgh Children and Families committee on the 21st May where the Edinburgh Learns Digital Learning paper will be presented by Lorna Sweeney.

Gillespies continues with its senior pupil pilot for access to WiFi. The council have indicated that in theory they are happy for Senior Pupils to be given WiFi access in other schools but only on council devices. This would be prohibitively expensive, Gillespies estimate it would be £300 per pupil.

The issue of children using their own phones and being distracted by notifications was brought up, also the issue of equity.

West Lothian pupils currently have WiFi access not on council provided devices.

The Learning Resource Centre is used by classes but the number of workstations available is not enough for all classes.

The Business Studies department is almost entirely paper free.

8. School Vision and Values – update

The consultation is complete and it will launch in and around the school in August. Currently NM is in consultation with companies to come up with suitable branding. Two options are currently being considered and will cost approximately £1500 initially and up to £3000 in total.

Having taken into account the balance in the PC account, the Parent Council agreed to contribute £2000 to support this.

9. Health and Wellbeing group – update

The Health and Wellbeing parent group has been set up and has already looked at mind-mapping and relaxation techniques.

They are having a meeting on 24th May at 11am in BHS to discuss the possibility of lockers or a storage area for coats and winter boots etc. AB to attend along with any other PC members that would like to.

It was noted that Firhill Health and Wellbeing group have links to the PTA and Parent Council. It was agreed that this was a good thing and something we could take forward.

10. Proposed roadworks outside BHS (summer 2019)

Scottish Water mains replacement works begin on 20th May (delayed to avoid noise disruption to exams) and will be passing the school. They will be working in 100m stretches and the works are to last up to 6 months, although Scottish Water are trying to reduce that time.

11. PC presence at P7 parents evening – Thursday 13th June

AM will speak at the P7 evening on behalf of the PC. He will include in his talk a bit about the website, AGM, and regular curriculum lead talks. He will encourage new parents to come along to the meetings.

12. Parents Night Presence – update from subgroup

The sub group continues and plan to have presence at parents night starting after the summer. They will get a pop up banner in the same branding as the vision and values signage with some key facts on it.

13. Recruiting Parent Council Members

New members will try to be recruited through the P7 open evening and the Parents Night presence. Visitors this evening say they were attracted by AB's friendly email.

14. Meeting dates for 2019/2020 session

Monday 30th September 2019 (AGM) plus proposed presentation by Support for Learning

Monday 28th October 2019

Monday 25th November 2019

Monday 20th January 2020

Monday 9th March 2020

Monday 11th May 2020

These will all be held in BHS.

15. AOCB

AB pointed out that there are two other groups that the Parent Council can be represented in, the Locality Group and the CCWP. Recognising that everybody has finite time and availability, if any of the Parent Council members would like to go to these meetings then AB is happy for them to attend to represent BHS PC.

The PC's priority remains to work for BHS and it's staff and pupils whilst at the same time maintaining an involvement in city wide groups and committees.

16. Date / time of next meeting

Monday 30th September 2019 (inc AGM)