

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

5th September 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.connect.scot (formerly SPTC - 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 2021-22 session PC members were:

Parent Members

Andrea Brewster
Karen Davidson
Nanda Groenewald
Adele Higham
Angela Hogg
Mandy Irvine
Trish Lumsden (Treasurer)
Alistair MacLennan (Vice Chair)
Elaine MacMaster
Neil McHaffie
Ernesta Noreikiene
Paula Ryan
Alison Robertson (Chair)
Nick Weir
Adrienne Wilson
Louise Wilson

Staff Member

Simon May

Community Member

Marion Milne (representing Balerno Community Council)

Neil McCallum (Head teacher) and at least one of the Deputy Head teachers also attend every meeting (Ros Ranger, Maree Anderson and Shaun Ferguson)

Andrea Brewster and Alistair MacLennan retired from the Parent Council at the end of the 2021/22 academic year.

Ideally the Parent Council would be made up of a diverse, representative spread of parents / carers. The Parent Council currently lacks diversity and representation from those not in Balerno.

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 2021-22

The Parent Council met on six occasions, 5 via zoom with the final meeting in person.

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 were varied, there was less focus on covid which and more on Health and Wellbeing in the covid recovery phase. We also discussed the building works at the school, empowered learning (1-2-1 devices) and behaviour related issues. There were various presentations from members of staff, all can be found on the school website.

4. Parent Council Meetings 2021-22

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

5th September

3rd October

7th November

23rd January

6th March

8th May

Topics to be discussed in this session include:

- Presentations from the new Curricular Leaders recently appointed in the school
- Empowered Learning
- Inclusion and Diversity in the School Community

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.

Since lockdown in March 2020 these meetings have all been held online, making them more accessible to more people.

6. Accounts 2021/22

This year's accounts are as follows:	£
Balance brought forward.	1034.40
Donation to School	1000
Expenditure	86
Income from CEC	900*
Interest	0.6*
Year End Balance	<u>849*</u>

* estimates, tbc once statements are received