



Balerno High School Parent Council

Meeting Online

Monday 30th January 2023 6.30pm

Minutes

Attendees

PC Members: Alison Robertson (AR) (Chair); Karen Davidson (KD); Gerhard Griesel (GG); Susan Kirby (SK); Adrienne Wilson (AW); Louise Wilson (LW); Simon May (SM); Paula Ryan (PR); Trish Lumsden (TL); Jen Reay (JR); Una Laks (UL); Marion Milne (MM)

Staff Members: Ros Ranger (RR); Maree Anderson (MA), Shaun Ferguson (SF)

Senior Pupils: Andrew Higham

Parents: Lara Gregson, Mandy Irvine, Francine Love, Gareth Davies, Julia Sproul, Oksana Hurak, Vema Devara

Apologies

Angela Hogg, Nanda Groenewald, Neil McHaffie, Nick Weir

1. Introduction and Welcome

AR gave a brief introduction and welcomed everyone. She then gave a short finance update – there is £1805.68 in the Parent Council account and it was suggested that this was donated to the school. AR asked that everyone could have a think about what it could be donated for as it should be donated to the school for a specific thing.

AR also highlighted the traffic consultation that the council was having and encouraged all parents to take part as it covered many of the roads around the school.

2. Head Teacher Report

RR gave a HT Report which is available separately.

3. Senior Pupil Update

A senior pupil was not able to attend so RR gave us an update on the Health survey that the school community was asked to do before Christmas. See separate presentation document.

This has highlighted the need to dig deeper into some of the results as the answers were vague in places and there was no indication of the year groups of the pupils answering the questions which will affect how some of the results are acted on.

JR highlighted the fact that the results of the survey don't necessarily match with what children are coming out of school saying and that the school needs to address the big issues.

4. Positive Behaviour Policy update – Shaun Ferguson

See separate presentation document.

SF gave us a comprehensive update on the behaviour policy that the school follows. This was followed by a short discussion where SF answered a few questions, reassuring that this policy should be the best for all pupils and ensure that there is as little disruption in class as possible. It was highlighted that this may not be happening in all departments.

5. Assessment feedback – Maree Anderson

MA encouraged all parents who had not filled in the assessment feedback survey to complete it so that these can be used to shape future assessments.

Final SQA practical assessments start after the February break and run until mid March.

GG asked that in the future prelim exams be more mindfully planned as some pupils ended up with most of their higher prelims in one week.

6. Head teacher Recruitment update

AR updated that the acting head interviews were to be held soon and that the recruitment process for a substantive head post would begin after the February break.

7. Update on parental feedback from Parent Council feedback form

See separate document.

AR talked through the feedback received from parents and these results will help shape the future PC meetings and what we focus on.

8. AOB

Toilets – RR advised that toilets had been closed during class time due to pupils congregating there again. They have since reopened as this was causing queues at other individual toilets.

iPads – A parent had asked for an update on the iPad roll out. MA advised that it was going well and staff training was ongoing but they were being more widely used. Ratho and Dean Park have been awarded digital school award and that there is the possibility of visits to other schools to see other ways that the iPads can be used. 6 iPads have been damaged so far and most pupils have been issued with them.

Next Meeting: Monday 6th March, 6.30pm, Learning Resource Centre.