



**Balerno HS Parent Council
6.30pm, Monday 15th May 2023
Minutes**

Attendees:

PC Members: Alison Robertson - Chair (AR), Susan Kirby (SK), , Nanda Groenewald (NG), Trish Lumsden (TL), Nick Weir (NW), Lara Gregson (LG), Louise Wilson (LW), Simon May (SM)

Community representative: Marion Milne (MM)

Staff members: Ros Ranger (RR), Shaun Ferguson (SF), Maree Anderson (MA), Heather Arnold, Curriculum Lead for Creative Technologies (HA)

Apologies: Adrienne Wilson (AW), Karen Davidson (KD), Gerhard Griesel (GG), Jen Reay (JR), Neil McHaffie (NMc), Cara Prot (CP)

1. Introduction and Welcome

AR welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the apologies.

2. Head Teacher Update

See separate document for Head Teacher Update.

3. Presentation from Heather Arnold, CL of Creative Technologies

Creative Technologies covers music, computing, CDT, art and photography.

New courses have been added to the curriculum to expand the offering - S5 photography and S6 course in collaboration with Edinburgh College. In computing cyber security and games development and a Nat 4/5 in graphics. For music there will be a freestanding unit for Nat 5.

There are four areas that have been focused on:

Digital skills - use of iPads

Positive relationships with pupils - e.g. art club, music groups, gender and sexuality alliance (GSA), board games

Celebrating pupil success - Twitter, concerts, Teams and posters around school

Staff professional development and sharing good practice - in service days

DONATIONS NEEDED: the music department is growing with more children expressing an interest in learning a musical instrument. Classes are free but provision may be limited by the availability of instruments. Donations of unused instruments would be very gratefully received.

4. Finance Update including health check.

We are required to carry out a financial health check on the Parent Council finances annually. See separate document for the details.

Current account balance sits at £1809. There was discussion about how this money could be spent and the meeting attendees were reminded that donations made by the Parent Council must be for the benefit of all pupils.



Ideas welcomed.

It was suggested that the PC could use some funds to run parental education/ information sessions on things like social media, drugs and vaping. Maybe one evening a term something could be run in the drama studio for parents to attend for free. This was favourably received and any ideas on who could come and talk should be sent to AR.

5. Headteacher Recruitment update

The job advert for Substantive Headteacher post is live and there will hopefully be a new headteacher recruited before the summer holidays.

6. 2nd Hand blazer / school branded sports clothes sale

Collect 2nd hand blazers and sports gear before the 14/06 via office
PC stand at the 14/06 uniform pop up shop to collect / sell second hand blazers etc and at the 20/06 P7 uniform pop up.

A popup shop will be run for second hand uniform and advertised via communication channels. Sales will be cash only.

7. Review of the year and plan for the next

AR gave a brief review of what the Parent Council had taken part in and discussed this year:

What have we heard about and discussed:

Presentations from– Elizabeth Scotson, School Nurse; Francesca Hannay, CL SS; Heather Arnott CL CT.
Maree Anderson - Empowered Learning, SQA info and Assessment feedback
Shaun Ferguson – Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, HWB Survey
Cara Prot and Ryan Charters – Pathways

We have taken part in:

Let's talk Scottish Education Consultation
Recruitment survey / feedback to council
School Improvement Planning

Main other discussion points have been:

Toilets
Vaping
School Communications
School Uniform

What we have done:

Attended 3 parents consultations / events to try and make the PC more visible
Discussed, via email, recruitment
Donated money to the school to pay for padlet
Had input into school policies, planning and communications.

Next Year:

Help the school with vaping issues where we can
Possible parental education on Social media and the harm it can cause.
Encourage engagement of parents in school life
Run the Preloved Uniform stand and PC info at parents consultations and other relevant events.



8. Any Other Business:

AR had been contacted by a parent regarding iPads. Kirknewton Primary School are the only cluster school that do not have one to one devices in p7, there was a questions about whether these children would be disadvantaged because of this. MA assure the parent council that all new S1 will be issued with new iPad's and go through the same initial training. This will ensure that all S1 are starting on a level playing field. She also pointed out that the way that iPads are used in high school compared to primary is very different so there will be a learning curve for all pupils.

9. Proposed dates for next year:	Informal welcome meeting	28/08
	AGM	11/09
	Meetings	30/10
		04/12
		22/01
		04/03
		13/05