



## Balerno HS Parent Council

6.30pm, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Minutes

### Attendees:

#### Parent Council Members

Alison Robertson - Chair, Trish Lumsden, Lara Gregson, Simon Marr, Emma Mowat, Jen Reay, Neil McHaffie, Louise Wilson, Karen Davidson, Shuky Sahota

#### Apologies:

Susan Kirby, Nanda Gronewald, Emma Mowatt

#### Senior Management team:

Ros Ranger – Head Teacher  
Maree Anderson - Deputy Head Teacher  
Shaun Ferguson - Deputy Head Teacher  
Vaila Wright – Acting Deputy Head Teacher

#### Pupils:

Sophie Rushworth, Merrie McBeth, Euan Robertson

#### Parents and Carers:

Sarah Mathison, Fiona Bell, Joan McKenzie

### 1. Senior Pupil Report

The Sophie, Merrie and Euan updated us on what the Senior Pupil Team had done this year.

- Reintroduced house points to build competition and enthusiasm for gaining points for the house.
- How good is your school survey – Focus groups were held and they worked well. There was interesting feedback on teacher/pupil relationships and some areas to work on were identified and will be passed on to the Senior Leadership Team and new Senior Pupil Team.
- The Senior Pupil Team helped at the Wider Achievement Evening – they thought the format worked well.
- Recycling bins have been installed in the canteen and bins for the concourse and classrooms are on the way.
- Study Swap book are being barcoded to allow them to be borrowed and brought back in a more organised way.
- Prefects were up and running for a few weeks then it was realised that some refinement was needed.
- Pupil Parliament has met a number of times
- House boards are up in the concourse
- In the next few weeks the Senior pupils will sit with the focus groups to get feedback on things have gone this year.

### 2. Head Teacher Report

See separate report.

### 3. Treasurer Report

The Royal Bank of Scotland have still not released the Parent Council funds, Trish has already complained about this and will escalate the complaint.



Currently we have £1715.57 waiting to be transferred to the new account.

#### 4. **Assessment Review:**

Maree Anderson updated us on the Assessment Review. There will be a decision on the assessments for next year in the next fortnight as staff need to know as soon as possible.

The Parent Council were updated on the class assessments that have been taking place from January. There is little control as to when these are as the SQA controls when briefs for these are released and the deadline for submission to SQA is in the next fortnight. It is hoped that if the prelim assessments change it will reduce the stress of these assessments as the young people will not go straight from formal prelims straight into assessments.

#### 5. **PTA**

Joan updated the Parent Council on the current PTA situation.

- Joan is the only member of the PTA and members of the Parent Council have been supporting the teas and coffees at parent consultation evenings and concerts.
- They raised £300 at Christmas Concerts
- Money has traditionally gone to the school hardship fund.
- Balerno Bricks is a potential good fundraiser and under advertised at the moment.
- There is a general lack of interest from parents and staff.
- It is unknown who the other trustees are on the OSCR paperwork

It was decided that there was a need to relaunch the PTA, contact S1 parents now to see if we can drum up support. Alison and Joan are to draft a communication to parents that will then be communicated to the PC and interested parties for comment / alteration. Emma Mowatt has volunteered to do any posters and similar and Simon Marr is willing to help with the communications.

It is hoped that we can avoid having to merge the PC and PTA as that would mean the PTA could not be a charity.

#### 6. **AOB**

- Why was the Ski Trip refused by the council?
  - It was rejected because extra curricular activities can not happen during school hours so skiing could not happen between 8.30am and 3.30pm daily on a trip.
  - It was agreed that Alison would contact Alexander Ramage the rep on the CCWP and the locality group regarding the fact that 50% of foreign trips are being refused.
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Date of next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in person and online.