



Balerno HS Parent Council

**6.30pm, Monday 22nd January
Minutes**

Attendees:

Parent Council Members

Alison Robertson - Chair, Trish Lumsden, Lara Gregson, Simon Marr, Nick Weir, Jen Reay, Neil McHaffie, Louise Wilson

Apologies:

Susan Kirby, Karen Davidson, Nanda Gronewald

Senior Management team:

Ros Ranger – Head Teacher
Maree Anderson (MA) - Deputy Head Teacher
Shaun Ferguson (SF)- Deputy Head Teacher
Evonne O'Doherty (EO) – Deputy Head Teacher

Teachers:

Simon May

Pupils:

Luke Foster, Rebecca Montgomery, Beth Cargill, Lena Ranson, Merrie McBeth.

Parents and Carers:

Catherine Currie-Brown, Nenzra Miranda Sarah Mathison, Francine Love.

1. Head Teacher Report

See separate report.

2. Treasurer Report

Trish updated the parent council on the bank account. Our account was closed in December and a Bank of Scotland account as opened. This should have taken a week but was only opened today. The new account has online banking which will make things simpler.

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

3. Course Choice

Evonne O'Doherty updated us that course choice this year is the similar to previous years. Parents and pupils are being signposted to information and communications are being kept to close to when the Course Choice is happening so as to not confuse things. The Course Choice information sessions are going to be recorded to maximise access for parents and carers.

EO also updated us that the partnership with Currie High School is to expand so more AH options can be available to S6 pupils. Also, the Keir construction initiative at Currie High will continue next year.

4. Senior Pupil Report

The Senior Pupil team updated us on what they have been involved in since the last meeting:

- They ran the Winter Festival which was a whole day event that everyone could be involved in.
- House points have been reintroduced and there are a number of ways they can be earned, not just sporting. There is to be a monthly quiz and also a Boardgaming event.



5. Lessons from Auschwitz

Luke Foster and Rebecca Montgomery gave a presentation (see separate document) on their recent trip to Auschwitz. They gave a very insightful and informative presentation with incredible reflection on what they had experienced.

6. Health and Wellbeing Faculty Presentation

Simon May (CL of the Health and Wellbeing Faculty) presented, see separate presentation.

7. Senior Phase Exams:

See separate slide.

Maree Anderson presented on the proposed changes to prelims. The proposal is to incorporate prelims into class time from October to January. This should reduce pressure on pupils.

N5 Maths and English will still be assessments in exam format so pupils get experience of the exam setting.

Dates for assessments will be shared mid-September.

These will finish by the end of January so that exam assessments can be done in January and February.

Practical assessments will take place out with class time and dates for these will also be shared mid-September.

These changes should future proof for the results of the Hayward Review.

All individual needs will still be accommodated.

8. Rights Respecting School

Catherine Currie-Brown updated us on the Rights Respecting School group.

- The UNCRC Scotland Bill became law on the 17th January, we are the first country to embed UNCRC into law.
- The RRS school group have had visitors from Hong Kong
- The group from BHS is supporting other schools
- Wear something festive day was about campaigning and advocacy this year.
- Pupils attended a COP 28 simulation event that pupils from the RRS group attended.
- The group is doing excellent work that has been highlighted by Lorna French.

AOB

Small Gym floor is warped, still waiting for a repair.

The school has received a LGBT silver award.

Date of next meeting 4th March 2024 in person and online.