

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfon High School Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2011 at 7.00 in the Upper Conference Room, Balfon High School

Present

Julie McEachern (Chair); John Paton (Vice-Chair); Dot Carswell; Phillippa Gray; Susan Cadle; Mary-Clare Brown; Moira Anderson; Val Corry; P Slavin; Jo Skabara; Thea Hilmi; Ruth Watkins; Heather McArthur; Amanda Mackenzie; Amanda Short; Geoff Forward

Apologies

Di Blackmore

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes having previously been circulated were agreed and duly signed by the Chairperson.

2. Matters arising

- **Feedback from change of day** – Phil Slavin reported that there had been an improvement in the numbers of pupils arriving late to school but felt it was too early to make any final decisions as the new fifth and sixth years had only been back in school for two days under the new system. A Survey Monkey is planned to obtain feedback from pupils and parents. There was some concern that the shortened lunch break would not leave enough time for pupils to get their lunch so Julie and Thea were invited to come into school one lunchtime after the summer break, observe how things work and report back to the Parent Council. Phil will also report back to the Parent Council in September.

AGENDA

3. Buses

A sub-group was formed consisting of Amanda Short, Jo Skabara, Thea Hilmi, Ruth Watkins and either Dot Carswell or Fiona Longley. Amanda to arrange a meeting with David Jamieson to discuss the possibility of using vehicles which have seat belts. Amanda will also speak to McLaren High and St.Modan's to find out their policy on school buses and Jo will contact the Scottish Association of Parent Councils. Ruth will also see what she can find out from other sources.

AGENDA

4. Accounts – Trust Fund

Val reported that the Trust Fund is now up and running. There is a Marketing team which is looking at establishing a database of alumni, developing a Trust website and looking into the possibility of employing somebody to move things on professionally. An official launch has been postponed until the Trust is more established. Val agreed to bring the Trust Fund accounts to future Parent Council meetings along with information about projects which have been funded.

AGENDA

5. Rector's Report

- **Questionnaire** – The questionnaire developed by the Parent Council had been approved by the Senior Teachers and is due to be distributed very soon. It has been kept short to encourage more parents to complete it but there is space for comments if required.

AGENDA

- **School Improvement Plan** – Val will present this to the Parent Council after the summer break.

AGENDA

- **Malawian Project** – Val extended her thanks to all families who have been involved in the Malawian Project and Julie reported that everybody seemed to be having a great time.

- **Girls Skirts** – Val reported that staff are fighting a losing battle over the length of girls skirts and asked for any ideas of how this could be tackled. It was felt that staff were spending an unacceptable amount of time dealing with this issue. It was agreed that form teachers would send any girls whose skirts were too short to Val and she would send a letter home. Parents were asked to support the uniform policy.

AGENDA

6. Plans for next session.

- **Communication** – Amanda Short had produced a draft booklet to be distributed to parents to encourage them to come into school as a one off or on a regular basis to share their skills/gifts/talents/hobbies with the pupils. Suggestions were made as to possible changes to the booklet and Amanda agreed to make the changes in time to give to new S1 parents at a meeting tomorrow evening. In future the booklet could go out with school reports, at parents' evenings and be downloadable from the school/Parent Council website.

AGENDA

7. A.O.C.B.

- **Equal Opportunities** – Amanda Short had revised the Equal Opportunities policy and asked members of the Parent Council to have a look at it and contact her with any queries or suggestions. It will also be on the school website.
- Ruth asked for clarification as to how the timetable is structured for children who do not go on school trips (specifically those trips which are not day trips) as some pupils and some parents seems to be under the impression that it is acceptable for these pupils not to attend school as they will not be missing anything. Val assured Ruth that the curriculum is continued for these children and that work would be left by any subject teacher who had gone on the trip. Phil confirmed that pupils who remained behind are occupied in a purposeful and meaningful way and this is often seen as a good opportunity to embark on activities which would not be possible with larger groups of children. Ruth wondered if there could be a 'package' which seems special to the children who don't go on the trips so that they still attend school and don't feel left out. Ruth to e-mail this suggestion to Val for consideration.

AGENDA

- Philippa asked who the link is at school with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Val confirmed that the link person is Katherine Muldowney.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 September 2011 in the Staff Room at 7.00 p.m.

A vote of thanks was offered to the Chair.