

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfron High School Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 7.00 p.m. at Balfron High School

Present

Julie McEachern (Chair); John Paton (Vice-Chair); Geoff Forward (Treasurer); Dot Carswell; Susan Cadle; Di Blackmore; Karen Merrick; Philippa Gray; Moira Anderson; Mrs McKay; Mrs Buchanan; Head Girl; Deputy Head Boy, 2 parents

Apologies

Jo Skabara; Fiona Longley; Val Corry; Derek Townsend

1. Minutes of previous meeting

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

2. PSE presentation

PSE is done from S1-S6. The PSE team have all been on training and they have created and updated material which is used throughout and in S1/2 it is taught by form class leaders on a rota basis with IT. It covers various topics ranging from road and water safety, Bounce back (around bullying which is carried on from Primary), alcohol, puberty and sexual health. From S2 topics range from dealing with conflict, domestic abuse and violence, relationships, tolerance and racism, smoking. Hope to put more information on the website to let parents know.

S3/4 topics are delivered by PSE team and 3 Support Learning Teachers within the 3 houses. Again this is done on a rota basis with RME, each lasting 10-12 weeks. Most of the topics from S1/2 are delivered but more in-depth. There is a drugs and alcoholic topic and a member from AA gives a presentation; attitudes and relationships. In S4 sexual health is looked at in further detail; money awareness; emotional health – linking to stress during exams; work experience.

S5/6 are more workshop based including personal safety; gap year; drugs and alcohol. S6 have health days which can include yoga, strictly dancing activities; finance workshops. Both Rebecca and Jamie felt the sessions are very relaxed and if any pupil finds certain topics uncomfortable they do not need to attend. There is good communication between the PSE team and parents.

Some members felt it might be a good idea to introduce the money awareness topic in S1 and also raise the issue of phone contracts. Julie thanked Mrs McKay and Mrs Buchanan for their very informative presentation.

3. Matters arising

➤ **Craft Fair** – This will be held on 19 March 2011 from 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. Posters are being sent to traders. Raffle prizes are need and also help on the day. Ask school to send out email to parents. S6 will be able to help on the day and also with the planning. Thanks were given to Dot and Jane.

4. Buses

Julie has written to the 3 Councillors and has walked the route at Fintry with the Community Police – pavement can only take single file, no street lighting and the traffic speeds up once out of the village. Councillor O'Brien has suggested writing to Belinda Greer and once reply has been received Councillor O'Brien will take it further.

AGENDA

5. Drug awareness evening

Philippa is still to waiting to have meeting with STRADA. Philippa has done more talks to S3 and S4 and is going to a talk with current S2 and at Dunblane High School. There have been developments with regards to the eulogy on the radio – the police in Northern Ireland are going to be using this as training for new recruits, police in Perth are interested in doing something as is Chichester University.

6. **Website**

Julie will contact Derek about accessing any emails from parents. He is keen to get involved with setting up a website for the Trust Fund.

AGENDA

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Wait until Craft Fair and then transfer money over to the Trust Fund account.

8. **Rector's Report**

- **Uniform** – All pupils continue to wear shirt and ties.
- **Curriculum for Excellence** – The in-service days were used to continue development and planning is now well ahead for next session in learning and teaching and assessment.
- **Values** – one of the key priorities for the school plan. A small group of staff are taking the lead on this and hope to get information from parents from the questionnaire that is being developed by the Parent Council. A School council has been set up and there are 3 reps per year. One of their first tasks will be how to gather information from pupils about values.
- **League tables** – Balfron High have been placed 15th which is based on cumulative measures including S4 results. Leagues tables can be misleading because they do not measure individual achievements e.g. where a pupil has achieved beyond expectations but not necessarily achieved the highest awards.
- **Boys' achievement** – There is a group of staff working on action research to try and establish reasons and strategies.
- **School Improvement Planning priorities** – This document is being sent out to all parents.
- **Bags** – All bags must not be left lying about because of safety reasons.
- **Trust Fund** – All bids to be received by 19 November with a meeting on 24 November to consider them. It is hoped to disburse up to £1000.
- **Remembrance** – All S5/6 pupils attended an assembly on 11 November.
- **Halloween discos** – Held for all year groups and were successful. There was concern regarding drinking in the bike sheds for a number of S5 and those involved are not allowed to attend the Xmas dance and an email will be sent to all parents.
- **Xmas coffee morning** – This will be held on the morning of 17 December.
- **Stirling Observer** – There has been an improvement with the school news being featured in the Stirling Observer. Mr Doherty has been working with S6 with regards to this.
- **UCAS** – As soon as the school receive the completed UCAS from pupils, they are processed and forwarded. Advised to complete as early as possible as Universities do make offers as soon as they are received.
- **Internet safety evenings** – Two evenings have been held in Killearn and Balfron and have been very successful. Another one is to be held on 12 January at the High School.

9. **Questionnaire**

Julie met with Val and looked at the HMIE questionnaire which had tick boxes. Also other schools seem to use the HMIE template. Julie handed out a draft questionnaire and edits will be made reflecting the Council's comments. Julie will email another draft to all members for further comment.

AGENDA

10. **AOCB**

Mrs Ebsworth has been appointed Headteacher at Alloa Academy, and Julie would organise flowers to be sent from the Parent Council.

11. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 January 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in the Strathendrick Suite, Balfron High School. Andy Faulds, Community policeman will give a presentation.