

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfon High School Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at Balfon High School

Present

Julie McEachern (Chair); John Paton (Vice-Chair); Geoff Forward (Treasurer); Mary-Clare Brown; Fiona Longley; Cindy Gray; Christine Robinson; Phillippa Gray; Jo Skabara; Susan Cadle; Do Blackmore; Val Corry; Maureen McNee; Andy Faulds

Apologies

Karen Merrick; Dot Carswell; Moira Anderson; Grace Shaw; Derek Townsend

1. Minutes of previous meeting

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

2. Presentation – Andy Faulds

Andy Faulds, Community Policeman informed the meeting that he will be doing safety internet presentations to all pupils at different levels. Some of the presentations are hard hitting. Also does a programme on drugs (on what is available in this area) and alcohol, effects it can have on your body to S1. Andy also patrols the village at lunchtimes and regularly visits the school, where all the pupils know him. The incident of the alcohol at the Halloween disco was mentioned, but there was no repeat at any of the Xmas dances. The police try to patrol the area when there are discos on at the school. Phillippa gave Val a copy of a new leaflet from Scottish Government about dangers of drugs, etc and a measuring plastic cup showing measures of wine, spirits, etc which is free at Spar for PSE teaching. Thanks were given to Andy for his informative presentation and he is willing to come along to the meetings.

3. Matters arising

➤ **Craft Fair** – Being held on 19 March. Flyers will be distributed to members for local villages. Applications for stalls to be made to Jane. Val will advertised it in Headlines. Julie will speak to Jane and Dot about arrangements etc.

AGENDA

➤ **Questionnaire** – Julie handed round another version of the questionnaire for parents after the discussions from the last meeting. It was felt there should be tick boxes (i.e. strongly agree, etc) with space for comments. Also it was agreed to cover just a few topics to encourage parents to reply, and it was agreed to concentrate on “Values, Learning and Achievement” giving examples of each topic. Di and Julie will do another draft.

AGENDA

4. Buses

Julie received a reply from Belinda Greer about the bus situation in Fintry and was informed that it was “not unsuitable on this route” as parents are expected to supervise. She would send a copy of this reply to the 3 Councillors.

It was agreed that a sub group be set up to look at evidence of seatbelts in school buses from other Council within UK. Also encourage parents to report any bus issues to Mrs Short so evidence can be kept. Jo/Di and possibly Cindy agreed to set this up. Val to let parents know through Headlines to send all issues relating to buses to Amanda Short, Depute Headteacher. Amanda will then forward to the appropriate person in the Council.

AGENDA

5. **Drug awareness evening**

Phillippa meeting with STRADA in March and they are keen to go ahead with an event.

AGENDA

6. **Website**

Derek Townsend will hopefully be able to attend the next meeting.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

Money will be transferred into the Trust Fund after the Craft Fair.

8. **Rector's Report**

➤ Letters were sent out to all parents to allay fears that pupils would fall behind when the school had to close because of bad weather during December. Teachers are making up for the any lost work and some supported study classes are been run. An online resource for the school is being developed to allow pupils to work out of school on suitable material should there be any further closures.

➤ **Curriculum for Excellence** – An evening will be held with P7 and S1 parents.

➤ **League tables** – Balfron High School have been placed 9th in the Glasgow Herald league tables. This is based on % of pupils in S5 gaining 5 Highers. They can be misleading because they are not measuring achievement of individuals e.g. where a pupil who has achieved beyond expectations but not necessarily the highest award. Also the tables depend on the measure used.

➤ **Trust Fund** - £700 has been disbursed from the Fund and a further £2000 has been received into the Trust. The launch is proposed for May/June.

➤ **Internet safety evenings** – An evening was held at the school in January and was attended by 40 parents. Community Learning and Development are willing to put on some classes to help parents with making sure that computers in the home are safe for use by children.

➤ **Consultation on school handbooks** – A review of school handbooks is being carried out the Government. Need parents' views, and this information will be forwarded to all parents with a discussion at the next meeting of the Parent Council .

AGENDA

➤ **BBC Any questions** – is coming to Balfron High School on 4 March 2011. Tickets will be available to parents and staff after first allocation to pupils.

➤ Stuart McKay would like to do a presentation to the Parent Council on recognising achievement and positive behaviour.

9. **AOCB**

➤ Some parents have the raised the issue about standing out in the cold when the fire alarm went off last week. It might be worth buying space blankets to give to pupils if necessary.

➤ Study leave for S4 was discussed. Some parents felt that they should be given study leave, others preferred to have their child in school. Val said that there had been no complaints from parents and in her opinion it was the best solution for S4. One parent said that their child found it difficult to study within classes.

➤ Di mentioned that the Trust Fund are looking for fund raising ideas. If anybody has any ideas let Karen, Susan or Di know.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in the Upper Conference Room, Balfron High School. There will be a presentation from Seasons for Growth.

