

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balfroon High School Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 27 January 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Balfroon High School

Present

John Paton (Chair); Julie McEachern (Vice-Chair); Geoff Forward (Treasurer); Jane Hunter; Di Blackmore; Tom Lane; Dino Jaroszynski; Phillippa Gray; Jo Skabara; John Maxwell; Susan Cadle; Christine Robinson; Moira Anderson; Val Corry; Maureen McNee

Apologies

Inge Fik; Charles Fox; Pat Monaghan; Shona Everden; Dianne Smith

Inge and Bill have both resigned from the Parent Council.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and duly signed by the Chairperson.

2. Matters arising

- Tom informed the Council that the interested parent from Blanefield could not attend the meeting and hopes to be able to attend the next one. Phillippa will approach parents in the Drymen area.
- A meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Committee has still to take place and Julie and Tom will both attend.
- Gordon McEachern attended the meeting of the music group cluster and raised the issue about the Pipe Band. There are two pipe band tutors but only one organises the Stirling Schools Pipe Band. Val will find out more about this issue and report back.

3. Working Groups

All reports were received and emailed to members before the meeting.

Fund Raising – There have been 24 tables confirmed from crafters, artists etc all selling a variety of goods. It was agreed to set a fee of £15 per table, £25 for two, but could be negotiable. Entrance fee will be £1.50 to include cup of tea/coffee and a cake, children 50p. Stall holders will be asked to donate a raffle prize. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks on the day. Jane will email nearer the time. All primary schools will have posters and the school will organise for a reminder text to be sent to all parents the night before.

Jane reported that she had a lot of problems trying to book the atrium, etc through Jarvis. They were going to charge £400 but this was resolved by the school booking it for free. She will write to Jarvis with the backing of the Parent Council complaining of the way this was handled and attitude of the Jarvis staff.

Communication – the logo has still be designed and Julie agreed to take on the design brief which will then be sent to the Jackie Ebsworth. Tom to send to Douglas Bell and Val the zip file of the web site for them to review it.

Life Skills/Career – attendance has not been great due maybe to the fact they are held at lunchtimes. Teachers mention the talks to all pupils at the form classes. Need to get more feedback from students. More speakers are needing to be identified. Might be worth considering including within the careers programme and A Curriculum for Excellence. Need to build on external partners and work with the pupils in finding interesting topics which will be done through the Pupil Council.

Clubs, etc are run at lunchtimes and after school and all pupils' achievements are recognised by the school whether sport or academic via the awards ceremonies. The aim is that all activities that young people are involved in at lunchtime and after school will be logged electronically. The school is working towards this.

A view was expressed that sporting achievements were given undue emphasis, at the expense of those achieving in other areas such as art, music and academic. Val assured the Parent Council that awards in other fields were made at the annual prize giving ceremony, and at other appropriate times.

4. Balfron High School Trust

All necessary signatures have been obtained and papers are ready to be sent to OSCR.

5. Rector's report

- This was emailed to all members before the meeting and it was found to be very informative. It was agreed to continue with 'Headlines'.
- Val will give a brief presentation at the next meeting about A Curriculum for Excellence.
- Val reported on an assault incident which had occurred at lunch-time outwith the school which had required police involvement. While appropriate action had been taken with the pupils involved, Val and Moira reported that the incident had taken place outwith school grounds and explained the difficulties staff have in ensure good pupil behaviour outwith the school, Val emphasised the rarity of such incidents.
- Val reported that an incident had occurred in the "bike shed", and asked for the Parent Council's view of changing the use of this shed to storage purposes. No use is made of the shed for bikes by any pupils. The meeting agreed that the shed did not perform a useful function and that its use for other purposes would be supported. Its location makes it difficult for staff to supervise. Nevertheless the fact that no pupils cycle to school may partly be attributed to the insecurity of the bike shed, and the meeting agreed that an alternative location be sought where bikes could be left safe and well-overlooked. Val will get in touch with Stirling Council proposing that the bike shed be used for storage and the bike racks be moved to the front of the school. She will report back at the next meeting.

6. Fintry buses

Jo and a parent from Fintry, John Maxwell have raised concerns about pupils having to walk from the Cross to their homes, as they live within the 2-mile drop off point. The school bus drops all children at the Cross and children who live more than 2 miles a mini-bus is provided. The road that the children have to walk is unlit, and there is not a pavement all the way and not gritted. If Council budgets were unlikely to fund upgrading of the walking route, the alternative of extending the bus route eastwards to the church or thereabouts should be investigated. It was agreed to approach local councillors through the Community Council and the Parent Council raising their concerns.

7. AOCB

- Geoff reported that an account has now been opened and £300 will be transferred from the PTA money that is being held by the school to the Parent Council account for running costs. Allocation from Stirling Council goes to the school.
- Jane also works for a youth project and the youth worker approached her about the funds from the Living Room Project which are being held at the school. Val would check with Tina and this would be transferred to the Trust Fund.
- John thanked the Working Group leaders for preparing reports in advance of the meeting. These had enabled the meeting to concentrate on the key issues.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2009 in the Community Meeting Room, Balfron High School

Dates of future meetings:

AGM – Tuesday 28 April 2009

Tuesday 9 June 2009

