

BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Balftron High School Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at Balftron High School

Present

John Paton (Chair); Julie McEachern (Vice-Chair); Jane Hunter; Di Blackmore; Pat Monaghan; Dino Jaroszynski; Jo Skabara; Mary-Clare Brown; Karen Merrick; Christine Robinson; Phillippa Gray; Susan Cadle; John Keith; Moira Anderson; Val Corry; Gail Falconer; Maureen McNee

Apologies

Tom Lane; Shona Everden; Charles Fox; Dianne Smith

John welcomed Gail Falconer, Deputy Head Girl to the meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

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

2. Matters arising

- Still no representative from Blanefield but Julie might know a parent who is interested.
- Julie has still heard nothing about the planned Community Planning Partnership Committee meeting and she will contact Pam Campbell at the Council.
- **Bike shed** – a request has been made to Stirling Council about replacing the bike shed but still waiting on a response.
- **Killearn Community Council** – the pupil involved has made a positive contribution and invited to be a chair and be involved in a session for young people run by Stirling Council.
- **Trust Fund** - Jim Bisset still on holiday. As soon as he has signed the solicitors will proceed. Discuss strategy in the Parent Council for raising money for Trust Fund.

3. Working Groups

Fund raising – There are 35 confirmed crafters/traders some with double tables. Donations of raffle prizes welcome and if too many would be used for the tombola stall. Help is still required to set up and clear up, take entrance fees, help with the tea/coffee. The school will provide extension leads. Make sure there are posters in all the surrounding villages.

Communication – The web site is now live and Tom will do updates. To look at the next stage for the Communication group. Val mentioned that the School Improvement Plan is being reviewed and the school want to develop a questionnaire (adapted from HMIE questionnaire) to parents and would be analysed electronically. The Communication Group could have an input on the questions.

Life skills/career – the lunchtime meetings are not very well attended and a review will be done for next year. It might be best to hold within classes, or have a career day or evening, or hold over a week (i.e. afternoons). Discussion with take place with the Senior Management Team about whether to target certain subjects and all year groups. Dino thought it might be a good idea to get speakers to come and talk about dealing with lifestyle problems and life challenges.

4. Curriculum for Excellence

Val handed out a one-page summary explanation for Curriculum for Excellence and pointed out that Balftron High is already doing a lot of the aims mentioned in the summary (4 aims – take responsibility; contribute effectively; successful learners and confident individuals) and that the learner is the most important element and work is ongoing in some areas. All students have access to all subjects up to S3 when choices are made. Already have a good personal support in place, as each form teacher is in charge of 20 pupils and achievement, whether academic or

sport, is recognised. Measuring its effectiveness is no different to what is being done already and HMIE monitoring as well, but still in the early stages. Some parents are concerned that not enough pupils are attending clubs etc at lunchtime or after school because of peer pressure, and there is plenty of clubs on offer but it is the choice of the pupil whether to attend or not. A breakdown of S1 pupils attending clubs can be done if required.

5. **Annual General Meeting**

This will be held on Tuesday 28 April 2009 in the Theatre. Email and text message will be sent by the school to all parents. There is a requirement to report to the Parent Forum and John will give an update on what the Parent Council is and what has been done this year and plans for the future. A member from each working group will also give a talk.

6. **Rector's report**

- An Aims Board has been designed by one of the pupils with the support of a parent and teacher and looking for a company to sponsor this.
- There have been several errors identified by S2 parents and these have been dealt with by the school. Steps are being taken to improve scrutiny of reports. Future reports will look different as the school has moved over to a new electronic management system. If any Council members are approached by any parents over the reports please direct them to the appropriate Depute.
- **Recognising achievement** – the new management information system gives options of identifying award winners for 'merit' and 'distinction', it is hoped to run a pilot with the current S2. A development team has been set up and looking for two parents to join this group. Di and Phillipa agreed to join the group.
- **Annual review meeting** – this meeting is to be held with the school, Stirling Council and Jarvis on 19 March. It was felt that traffic management could be raised i.e. painting of lines. Val would raise this issue and report back.
- The fire alarm was set off deliberately and the pupil in question was dealt with very seriously, as it caused disruption to the S5/6 examinations.

7. **AOCB**

Nil.

8. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14 May 2009 at 7.30 p.m. and the next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 June 2009 in the Community Meetings Room, Balfron High School at 7.00 p.m.