



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND AGM OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Ian Donaghey (ID) [online via Teams]; Jonathan Campbell (JC); Allison Lunan (AL); Karen Thomas (KT); Louise Oudega (LO); Jane McGrory (JM); Kirstie Mendham (KM); Cllr Alan Moir; Cllr Gary Pews; Samantha McLean (SMcL); Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR)

Apologies: Cllr Gordan Low; Lynn Armour (LA)

This was a combined meeting of both the Parent Council and AGM.

1 WELCOME

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly to Samantha McLean and Ashwathy Rajagopal who were attending their first Parent Council meeting.

JC congratulated ID in his appointment as Acting Head Teacher.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of 31st August 2021 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

This has been a busy time with a number of staff appointments

PT Gàidhlig/Gaelic appointed – Ms Ishbal MacLeod. ID hopes she will be in post by the end of the month. This appointment will enable us to provide Gaelic as an option to Gaelic learners as well as native speakers. Ms MacLeod is also able to support subjects such as History and Modern Studies in Gàidhlig.

PT STEAM (0.5 post) – Ms Young will shortly be going on maternity leave and Ms Lauren Wallace has been appointed to the post of PT STEAM full time. She currently shares this post with Ms Young. There are currently lots of COP26 challenges across the school and Ms Wallace has ideas and plans for many STEAM activities across the curriculum.

The Acting DHT post was advertised on My Job Scotland and interviews will take place on Thursday 4th November. There is a strong leete of three candidates, one internal and two external candidates. Currently we are short of one DHT and Mr Ross is year head of S3/S4 and Mrs Kerr is year head for S5/S6.

S4 Supported Study is now at week three and will continue until prelims in December. This is the first time these pupils will have full exam experience. Study leave will take place and invigilators will invigilate exams which will take place in the Games Halls.

S5/6 Pre Prelims have now finished and results analysis is underway to identify areas of learning loss and to put in place support where required. Results will be shared with parents

on Satchel (SMHW) and learning conversations will take place between young people and Guidance staff.

The S5/6 Supported Study six week block will begin next week in the build up to their prelims in January 2022.

ID described the ways in which the school engages with parents. Monitoring and tracking takes place regularly throughout the year. BGE pupils receive termly reports and Senior Phase pupils' reports are issued bi-monthly. Parents are informed by email, text and through Satchel that these have been issued to ensure every parent is aware of their child's progress.

The latest edition of the school magazine, The Bishy Bulletin is now available on Satchel, the school website and Twitter. It is a fantastic piece of work and worth reading.

We want to create more opportunities for stakeholders – parents, pupils, staff and the local community to influence or have their say on what's happening in school and how can we improve. This will be discussed at a future PC meeting.

JC commented that he is very happy with format and content of school reports and other parents agreed.

4 PARENT EMAIL

The PC has received an email from a parent who is concerned about the removal of the morning bus for pupils who live in the Meadowburn area. The timings of the 142 circular bus are no longer suitable for pupils coming to school. Cllr Moir said this is a commercial service with a 5 – 10% subsidy from SPT/EDC. This service went to tender in April 2021 and only one company tendered for contract. The previous company declined to tender. Cllr Moir is grateful there is still a service but understands parents' concerns; however, there is unlikely to be a change to the agreed contract as this would cost more. Cllr Moir will speak to SPT regarding this, however operators are reducing rather than increasing services. It is a challenge to get public to use public transport. JC noted this does not help parents and adds to congestion at school. Cllr Pews asked about this in August as he was contacted by four parents but the company stated that 'regretfully the school run' service was not part of the tender and they would not change the service. There are also no longer passengers to Aviva and reduced numbers due to COVID restrictions which does not help the situation. This contract lasts for 3 years.

JC stated that this is a very topical issue and one that is extremely difficult to resolve but this does not help parents at the moment, particularly as winter approaches. LO asked if the scope of the tender included the provision of the early morning journeys. Cllr Moir stated the company was only prepared to provide a reduced service for the cost stated in the tender.

Discussion then took place on the fact the distance from the school is measured 'as how the crow flies' rather than road distance. AR mentioned that this meant more cars on the road. SMcL asked if 'free' travel for under 21s which starts next year would encourage more pupils to use public transport.

5 EDC DRAFT PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN

JC issued a summary to parents which raises points re parking around schools. Most parents abide by rules but others will not. JC asked if school had complaints. ID commented that

there are issues at Palmer Court with parents using parking bays which has led to confrontation between parents and residents. This is not only BA parents. ID is monitoring the situation each day. Parents are arriving very early to pick up children in the afternoon and sitting in their cars which causes problems. It would be better if parents moved a few streets away to drop off/pick up their children. The number of schools in the area means there is considerable congestion both in the morning and afternoon.

An EDC pilot to have restricted parking zones round schools is to take place in a few months' time. This will trial restricted parking zones at set times at three or four schools across the Authority. A previous similar pilot scheme worked reasonably well at Wester Cleddens and St Matthew's Primary Schools and encouraged a few parents to walk children to school and pleased residents. Cllr Moir noted driver behaviour is an issue everywhere but could be improved if resources are provided. EDC do provide transport for eligible pupils but some buses are still only half full. There is a need to get young people on board.

Cllr Pews noted it is chaotic at 3pm when primary schools and BA are leaving at the same time. Extending parking zones may help. ID noted that just parking two or three streets away would make a big difference. He felt it was not too much to ask secondary pupils to walk that distance. SMcL stated there needs to be legislation not advice.

SMcL noted that the cycle path along the new stretch of road to Aviva is a great idea but the cycle path ends and cyclists have to go back on the road which is dangerous, particularly for children. LO commented that her home is a considerable distance from the school but is not eligible for free transport and it is simply not feasible for her child to walk to school especially in winter or bad weather.

Cllr Moir believes we need to keep going over same points again and again to get the message across to some parents and getting young people on board may be way forward. JC asked if the school could help. ID agreed there is an opportunity, particularly after this week of COP26 activities. Activities this week have focused on our carbon footprint and we need to make this more sustainable. ID will be contacting parents to raise awareness. The local community sees school as an asset and we want this to continue. L. Wallace, PT STEAM will also be looking at possible activities.

6 AOCB

JC asked if anyone wished to take on position of Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk or if those in post were happy to stay on. JC and AL are happy to remain as Chair and Vice-Chair. SMcL offered to take on post of Clerk as LO is struggling due to work commitments.

AR asked if there was any possibility of parents' evenings resuming. Some parents have not had an opportunity to meet teachers since their child began at the school. ID replied that we are currently exploring the use of various software platform to host virtual meetings with allocated time slots but this needs consultation with EDC and teaching unions. We are trying to make more use of Satchel and reporting to keep parents informed as much as possible. There is high parental engagement and staff are working with parents who are less engaged. He reiterated that there are unlikely to be parents' evenings in school this session.

Proposed meeting dates for rest of session were agreed:

- Tuesday 11 January 2022
- Tuesday 15 February 2022
- Tuesday 26 April 2022

- Tuesday 7 June 2022

KT will put in lets although we will need to confirm with EDC if these are allowed or if online meetings should be held due to current COVID restrictions.

JC closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –
TUESDAY 11th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.00PM**