



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2022

Present: Karen Thomas (KT), Allison Lunan (AL), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Lynn Armour (LA), Kirstie Mendham (KM), Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR), Ian Donaghey (ID), Jane McGrory (JM), Cllr Gordon Low (GL), Cllr Alan Moir (AM), Cllr Lynda Williamson (LW), Sam McLean (SM)

Apologies: Louise Oudega, Natalie Storey

1 WELCOME

JC Welcomed everyone to the meeting, minutes from last meeting have been distributed to all members electronically, approved and circulated onto the school website.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

School Improvement Plan will be covered during HT report

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Staffing

A very busy period with several retiring staff needing to be replaced. ID officially thanked all staff members for their contribution over the years. ID detailed staff movement and expressed that the calibre of applicants was very high, with those successfully appointed doing very well.

Charity Fundraising

Target set for the nominated school charity - Young Lives versus Cancer – chosen by the young people, was an ambitious (with Covid restrictions) £10,000. A cheque for £15,392 has been presented to this charity and an incredible £23,680 in total. has been raised by the school community for several deserving charities throughout the year. Fund raising is a big part of the school's values/ vision/ aims and will continue next session. Unfortunately, the school fund has not benefitted from the usual fundraising events – Sportathon, West Highland Way, Sleepovers – missed owing to the pandemic, these funds providing desirable items for the school. Discussion about potential fundraising ideas took place among members, some suggestions being a Just Giving page and sponsored litter picking in the community.

School Improvement Plan

Over the last few weeks stakeholders have been consulted in respect of the School Improvement plan for the last session, being asked 'What went well, what could have gone better and what are our priorities for next year?' with the following areas identified.

Health and Wellbeing – stakeholders: pupils, staff and parents

School will invest time in development of personal and social education curriculum building on PSE once weekly with further initiatives to make sure a coherent programme for S1 through to S6. e.g, key people delivering workshops in order to ensure young people are appropriately set up for life beyond school. Extracurricular activities recommencing such as Duke of Edinburgh Award, sporting events,

Christmas Concert etc. Promoting positive relations and a nurturing policy encouraging young people. The Mental Health Ambassadors Programme is also being extended to younger year groups.

Partnerships

Introduction of a family learning programme so young people will have similar support available at home, parents/carers will have resources made available to assist. School intends to extend the primary to secondary transition with team building days, two full teaching days and additional visits for ASN and nervous pupils. Three different handbooks are being developed for stakeholders, containing pertinent information and relevant links with expectations clearly laid out.

Attainment and Achievement

Reporting pupil progress during the pandemic saw lots of new measures introduced for reporting back to parents. SEMIS was not accessible, instead Satchel was utilised with regular updates on pupil progress. Reports were also increased as no parents' evenings were permitted, with five reports provided for senior phase pupils and three for BGE pupils with well established monitoring and tracking systems in place for senior phase pupils.

Historically two traditional methods of reporting were a parents night accompanied with one fully written report. For senior phase pupils' staff are to be asked whether a full written report and a parent's night would be preferable to replacing the written report with a virtual parent's night. Consultation would then take place with parents and amendment could be in place for next session. Discussion took place among members. AL expressed that face to face preferential as written reports were very generic, two monthly tracking reports provide relevant update. With success of new measures introduced it is what parents find most beneficial, face to face conversation much better, negative comments seem to be deliberately omitted in written report but seems able to be addressed face to face.

For senior phase staff would provide, at face-to-face parent's night in October, a target grade – what standard the pupil is currently working to and what their target grade should be (1 best, 4 worst) giving the opportunity to work effectively for January prelims, this would be followed by another parents' night in Jan/Feb when the relevant result could be discussed. Many staff believe they get much more from virtual meeting with parents, without need to provide a 'praise sandwich'. LA expressed positive feedback in respect of virtual parent meeting experience.

Senior Phase monthly monitoring tracking will also be introduced to BGE over the next couple of years. SM made mention of the failure of the platform for the S2 year group virtual parents evening, ID has been assured that this was a one off and is unlikely to be repeated.

ID advised that the core team will, in respect of the Scottish attainment gap, arrange a food drop off to parents of low-income families. Liaison will be increased with these parents/carers as more will be reliant on free school meals and clothing grants and the core team will assist with this.

ID notified members that there are accessible resources available 24hrs a day and is keen that both pupils and parents know how to access these. Young people are well equipped with their personal study but there is also the need to make sure that those who struggle have similar support. With the Scottish attainment challenge in mind, staff need to be able to access sufficient information in respect of the young person's background to ensure appropriate support given / re establish learning. Also teaching brand to be considered, many new staff coming in have had to rely on virtual teaching to date.

Recognition of activity within the community in respect of achievement, looking at school award ceremony to ensure this type of work by young people is being appropriately recognised. Detail will be placed on school web site.

SM queried Individualised Educational Programme for pupils with ASN within the school. ID advised several pupils are on such a programme whereby for example a reduced timetable can be followed, lift pass given, a targeted support plan developed, depending on circumstance. Launch of an ASN base – ID looking to enhance this where it is not suitable for a pupil to attend certain subject classes, hoping it can be as extensive as it possibly could be. KM expressed that it is very important children with ASN feel able to achieve too, differentiate tests in order to provide a sense of accomplishment is very effective. Extended categories with progress and effort, not just attainment.

ID advised 79 responses were received from parents for the SIP consultation. General theme was very much ‘everything is fine, carry on with what you are doing’, this response is being viewed as a positive as not many parents wanting to complain.

MP Amy Callaghan will be visiting the school on 17th June, following the award of ‘School of the Decade’, she will meet with a couple of focus groups comprising pupils and staff.

Two hundred and sixty pupils will be commencing in S1, the largest year group ever. Parents and S1 evening taken place over two evenings with three houses each night. S1 pupils are being provided with utensils, sports bag and a metal water bottle as a welcome pack.

4 AOB

LA queried whether the school has considered provision of an area or desk for reusing/recycling uniform, bags, stationery with consideration for the environmental impact of unnecessary new items being purchased each year. **ID will raise this idea with Core team**, there is a lost and found of which there is lots, including clothing. New blazers and ties are given to the library who pass on to health and well-being. Encouraging people to recycle and not buy new could be a good idea. Stationery could also be a good thing for an honesty box.

KT notified members that she is unfortunately resigning from the PC, school librarians have been in dispute with the local authority who fail to recognise and recompense the extended hours of work undertaken by them. Due to hours stipulated, KT is no longer able to attend PC meetings. ID expressed his thanks to KT who he detailed as ‘A massive role model going over, above and beyond her call of duty’. Everyone is aware of the work KT does, not just a librarian, she is considered as management. All members expressed their thanks to Karen for her hard work and support.

Thanks were also extended to Jane McGrory for her commitment at her last meeting with the PC.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 30th August 2022
AT 7.00PM**