

BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND AGM OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2022



Present: Ian Donaghey (ID); Jonathan Campbell (JC); Allison Lunan (AL); Lynn Armour (LA); Kirstie Mendham (KM); Cllr Lynda Williamson; Shona McCarthy (SMcC); Iain Ross (IR); Deborah Hart (DH); Sheena Murray (SM); Samantha McLean (SMcL); Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR)

Apologies: Cllr Alan Moir; Cllr Gordon Low; Cllr Collette McDiarmid

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

1 WELCOME

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly to Shona McCarthy and Deborah Hart who were attending their first Parent Council meeting along with pupils from the Enterprise Team.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The distributed Minutes of 30th August 2022 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Young Enterprise Team ID introduced Mr Cameron Carey and S6 pupils Enterprise Team; each year pupils run their own business aiming to turn a profit with the impact on the school being assessed. Members received a full presentation from the pupils in respect of this year's Young Enterprise product, a seed impregnated bookmark in various designs. Discussion took place concerning potential marketing opportunities within the community. A questionnaire was distributed for completion by members. Pupils were thanked for their detailed presentation.

Learning and Teaching ID introduced Ms Lesley Wilson to members. During COVID the delivery of teaching changed to a blended approach, now normality is returning, school is seeking to encourage the extension of teaching among staff and parents. A very positive in-service day presentation was provided to staff by Ms Wilson, (appointed PT for Learning and Teaching last year) inspiring staff who were enthused by its content, encouraging parental involvement. Ms Wilson spoke with members concerning retrieval practice – basically recalling information learnt previously. When practised throughout school, parents will ultimately get involved at home setting a good consistent approach with pupils, parents and teachers. Parents will be given resources – members were provided with information concerning the Forgetting Pit and Sticky Information. Discussion took place regarding how to target parents, and interventions with families not engaging, with consideration for a neutral venue such as local community hubs to be utilised for this. IR detailed ten S6 Learning & Teaching ambassadors have been recently appointed, attending the relevant teachers' group, but need to establish how they build on their skills and deliver information to upcoming pupils.

Resources have been shared with staff, podcasts 5/10 mins or longer – consideration of advanced and basic podcasts too, Ms Wilson very creative getting people engaged with this. (You Tube Video – Kate Jones 25 mins, Pod Cast from Learning Parent 20 mins) and is very keen to provide this information to parents but wants to get it right first time.

ID queried whether more workshops would be beneficial, as some parents feel inadequate and some unsure how to help. Workshops could provide a strong sense of tricks teachers have to get information from pupils such as simply ‘Go and study for 30 minutes and come back and tell me about it’, IR detailed reverse learning – 5 mins to explain everything they have learnt about Sahara Dessert and also incentivise – 30 mins of phone before study. Dropping of subjects at end of 2nd year raised by LA as a potential barrier, ID advised that resilience needs to be developed for 4/5th year challenges as well as University/Apprenticeships and life -time learning.

School are monitoring and tracking performance to ensure all subjects are well covered. Relevant means of communication discussed - Pod Casts by Ms Wilson, Video clips – presented by pupils / Ms Wilson, You Tube, generic subject so easy application for all and teachers able to adjust for own subject, Teams – accessible for parents with a catalogue (currently under creation) looking to reduce parental anxiety as well as pupils. Members agreed that this information should be available for all pupils S1-S6.

PSE Programme ID Introduced Mr Iain Ross (DHT with responsibility for pupil support).

Pupil Support – Mammoth task. Great emphasis and support on PSE programme as this gives them a bigger platform, Health and wellbeing so important and huge emphasis on YP to cope with demands placed upon them. IR has been tasked with overhauling the programme and redevelopment of PSE. Health & Wellbeing responsibility for all and curriculum focus will be on four of the six organisers (excluding Physical education and Food health). School will be moving to a strategic overview model with staff responsible for overseeing the implementation of one organiser, this will be introduced in May 2023, running S1- S6. The four organisers being Mental, emotional and social wellbeing, Planning for choice and change (including option choices), Substance Misuse and RSHP. The Guidance team will oversee this throughout. A working group of twenty-five members of staff from twelve different departments are collecting pupil voice from Sept-end of term. Development will take place from Jan to end of March. Quality assurance to take place with pupil, staff and parent choice, wanting a few topics to make sure it is a one stop shop.

PC Members are being asked to complete questionnaire via Microsoft link which will be cascaded via ID, A knowledge base of resources / life experience / liaison officers / lessons / experiences outside of school is desired in order to provide additional learning experiences for YP e.g. Rape crisis – with content being digitalised for future dissemination. JC queried whether preference was from PC members presently. IR advised the number of responses would be limited and was looking for the thoughts of PC who can then cascade appropriately as feedback comes back and then from website. IR does not want an emotive response but factual based feedback, hence the three specific questions. A wider consultation programme is intended to be cascaded in due course but presently due to legislation demanding content, ID wishes to empower PC voice, with a more thorough understanding, during the developmental stage. KM queried whether this was based on Experience and Outcomes from Government Level. ID clarified it is in a local context, things in the community, does it need addressed right now – need to react? There are new plans for Community Liaison officers and partnership working.

***ACTION - Questionnaire to be distributed to members for completion. COMPLETE**

School Calendar ID advised that there is a busy school calendar with lots happening, examples being; Numeracy Event, Escape Room planned for Modern Studies, Aid Ukraine, Study programme. Keen for parents to follow school twitter accounts and check Satchel in order to keep themselves up to date.

First face to face parents evening since the pandemic occurred last week, the busiest ever with a 90% attendance rate, great success. The electronic booking system was utilised again, this made a more pleasant experience for all. Volume of five-minute appointments was also increased. This will be going live for S2 soon. Introduction of a bell to signal start and end of appointment, this was received well by parents.

Forthcoming events are Halloween discos, Access Girls PE Day and a P7 open evening on Thursday night with 470 guests coming for a presentation, twenty-eight groups will be attending four different workshops on a rotational basis.

Reporting Pupil Progress ID is confident that Parents are more informed than ever, due to the monitoring and tracking method in place. Parents, when provided with choice, majority wanted an online parents evening in place of a written report, owing to the reporting process in place. ID advised that other schools are interested in BA model and this may be reviewed for BGE next year. Senior phase – online parents evening, already had monitoring report and staff have just finished the BGE tracking report. Feedback was requested from members. DH detailed a very positive response, with monitoring and tracking for S4 and 5 whereby children liked having the feedback. ID clarified that YP will not only get it from the tracking report but will also have a chat with their Guidance teacher, more in depth discussions will be had with those needing it.

Awards Ceremony

Planned for June, this is an opportunity to start afresh, acknowledging what parents think are important. A number of assemblies took place last year, focusing on achievement/success stories. What do parent body feel is important – Attainment / Achievement / Life of School / Something to recognise Hard work.

***ACTION – PC to think about what is wanted by Parents – Gather ideas, what would we like?**

JC queried whether the Awards will be split as the School capacity is the largest it has ever been. ID advised that it is in the early stages of planning, half of the school population have never been involved in an Awards ceremony and this is a good time to evaluate going forwards. A pupil focus group and a staff working group will also be involved in this. Cllr Williamson advised that when attending other LA schools' awards ceremonies, these have been split into BGE and Senior pupils. BA currently open for debate

4 SCHOOL CAPACITY CURRENTLY AND PROJECTED

ID advised traditionally capacity for year group 210 with flexibility to extend to 220. This current S1 year group consist of 260 catchment YP, 40 more than ever before. LA was aware of larger intake and no placing requests granted within this S1 year group. School has utilised and maximised space within current building, break out rooms are used for tutorials – smaller rooms bespoke with ICT, work and money have been invested. Biggest concern is limit over curriculum expansion. LA are bringing in modular units to site on the small section of grass

adjacent to the 4G fenced area. These four units will provide four classrooms equipped with ICT – Lap top trolleys and will be place for next session. This provides the school the opportunity to be able to enhance the curriculum with Criminology addition, which couldn't have been achieved without the additional space. Going forwards, including new housing developments (Cala & David Wilson) full estate numbers in catchment provide 212 currently for next session. Second hand housing market in catchment area is unpredictable factor though. Criteria is applied by LA for entry.

ID advised members that every day the assembly hall bleachers are put away and there is always a seat available for every pupil, those who sit on the floor do so through choice, not necessity. All pupils have access to full curriculum and school is very well supported by LA for ICT, no YP is denied ICT if needed. ID is reassured that there is sufficient room presently, only concern had been potential limit to curriculum expansion and the addition of the four modular units has allayed this.

5 PARKING / TRAFFIC ISSUES

JC requested this be deferred until next meeting due to time constraints. Cllr Williamson advised that the TRO has received mixed feedback with trial supporters loving it and those who don't, hating it.

6 AOCB

Comann nam Parant SMcC advised that Comann nam Parant is looking to broaden out the Gaelic option to other pupils as this has never been an option at BA. ID detailed that Introducing Gaelic for Learners option is already in place for both 3rd year and 5th year pupils, LA has already been requested to provide a newly qualified teacher to support Ms MacLeod in order to develop this further, this is a huge priority. These are Scottish Government Gaelic for learners' plans, further down line Gaelic for Learners will also be available for S1.

AGM 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. No alternative nominations were advised and JC, AL and SMcL are happy to remain as Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. These were proposed and seconded as follows;

JC – Proposed SM, seconded LA

AL - Proposed LA, seconded JC

SMcL – Proposed KM, seconded AL

SMcL advised members of LA request for PC members' full details, provision of which had been denied and queried by SMcL as it is believed to be in breach of GDPR legislation without relevant permission from individuals. No update has yet been received from the LA and members' names only have been provided as these are a matter of public record from minutes. SMcL will keep members updated as and when information is received.

Proposed meeting dates for rest of session were agreed:

- Tuesday 10 January 2023
- Tuesday 21 February 2023
- Tuesday 25 April 2023
- Tuesday 6 June 2023

Lets are in place for all meetings.

Items deferred for next meeting owing to time constraints

- Safety of Scooters used at school
- News and general Awareness
- Credit Awareness, raised previously – were any sessions conducted
- Gift donations for Christmas. Under the tree program.

JC closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING –
TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM**