



**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023**

Present: Allison Lunan, Jonathan Campbell, Lynn Armour, Kirstie Mendham, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Ian Donaghey, Cllr Gordon Low, Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Adaeze Umensofar, Kenneth Lawani, Kate Ferguson, Julie Watson, Shona McCarthy, Lyndsay Murray, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Cllr Alan Moir, Deborah Hart, Balwinder Seichen, Stephanie Fowler

Apologies: Melanie McKendrick

**1 WELCOME**

JC extended a warm welcome to all attending meeting, particularly those attending their first meeting. A brief outlay of the purpose of the PC was provided by ID.

**2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting and were accepted as an accurate record.

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

SQA results

ID advised members that staff came together on the first in service day to not only share the 'headline figures' of the SQA results but also celebrate individual results, with staff working hard in order to recognise YP fulfilling the level of attainment that they have achieved, with some YP facing significant barriers and showing resilience in doing so. ID expressed that not only BA results, but those in East Dunbartonshire collectively - alongside East Renfrewshire, are the highest performing Local Authorities in Scotland. ID provided members the presentation detailing the SQA breakdown for Nat 5 results at S4, with the comparative results over the last five sessions - 92% of pupils achieved Grades A-C for the 2023 exam diet, showing improvement across the board with the highest pass rate in East Dunbartonshire. S5 and S6 Higher results were 85% and 83% respectively, with the S6 result being the best in the Authority area with a better average result. ID detailed the difficulty staff face keeping S6 year group motivated and enthused that they do so. S6 Advanced Higher result was 80% pass rate, for 164 exams taken, better quality than ever before. HT of Douglas Academy visiting BA. ID also informed members that the last school inspection took place in 2012, another one must be due. School has a very engaged parental body, fantastic teaching and an extensive support programme for YP.

Cllr Williamson questioned results in respect of Closing the Attainment Gap, ID detailed that this was a big priority last year, a strategic change initiative – closing the attainment gap. ID explained to members that Insight is a Government tool, whereby any qualification gained by a YP, gets tallied up upon their leaving senior phase education. Performance for all YP will only become available in September for those pupils leaving in 2023. This information will be considered alongside the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) scale applied to all pupils. ID needs to ensure the line is as

high and as flat as it can be, school is focused on ensuring that Tariff points are as high as they can be for all pupils, led by DHT Equity. ID is optimistic for BA.

JC queried whether any subject group did particularly well, ID detailed the new subject additions have surpassed expectations with new classrooms being state of the art, (including plasma screens and air conditioning) and essential for the development of curriculum. Food and Consumer Science, Early Learning and Childcare are very accessible and stats show a good result level. Child Care and Development for Higher (Level 5 courses for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year). Psychology now has a PT and dedicated teacher, nationally, attainment in this subject was not good, however BA had strongest result in Scotland which was a relief. Criminology has also been introduced at level 5 and will go on to level 6. Curriculum has been opened up and it is difficult for one subject matter to stand out as the results across the board are fantastic. YP now have a greater choice than ever.

### Values

ID addressed the current School Vision, Values and Aims have stood since 2006 and feels that it is important for everyone - pupils, staff and parents to be aware and have a say as to whether they need to be renewed. Vision – Where are we going, Values - Who are we, Aims – How we get there. A presentation was provided to members with the feedback from pupils and staff both displaying a lot of correlation. Intended form for circulation to parents for their opinion displayed and following discussion, (KF advised inclusion of an unrelated example would be beneficial eg NASA values) members approved the form.

### Parental Engagement

ID expressed that the school want to encourage parents in every way and continue building on the excellent parental engagement, ensuring that every pupil is supported. Following events are scheduled for parents; S1 Information evening 31/08/23, UCAS information evening (S5 & S6) 04/09/23, S4-6 information evening 05/09/23, S1-3 information evening 19/09/23 and a P7 information evening 12/10/23.

ID detailed that parents have been asked what they would like help with in order to provide appropriate workshops – study, sleep, time management etc.

UCAS open evening is the earliest ever, ID explained that it is a process with a closing date in January, however it operates on a first come first served basis and a place is instantly awarded upon successful application. This provides YP with a head start and parental support is vital in this application.

In respect of S4-6 school want to share with parents the challenges their child will face going through the Nat 5 & 6 process and how they can provide support as well as digest the information as to support the YP will be provided with, throughout the session at school.

S1-3 Parents will be able to attend workshops most relevant for home life with access to resources and Satchel.

P7 open evening allows YP to take part in lessons and reassures parents education has changed. Learning and teaching in school is fantastic.

ID clarified to members that the time undertaken for these information evenings is not in the working time agreement for staff and is over and above what they are required to do. DH advised that Senior Phase pupils are also involved and Mental Health ambassadors have been trained, this might be a future workshop in itself. ID advised that with an attendance rate of over 90% at parents evenings, there may be an introduction of workshops within the computer suite as well.

## Fund Raising

ID explained that the school would like a second school minibus – cost of transport is colossal. Last season numerous educational trips were run and the school fund pot of money has now been fully utilised and needs to be replenished. School has been considering how to try and raise funds and are aware that some schools do brilliantly. Discussion took place among members - something with a different name to PTA, perhaps a Just Giving Page. Some parents may be well connected and development of a committee to source funding 'How to' or a Whats App Group is what school has in mind. If committee want to run events they can do so, but no obligation. LA queried whether Mr Carey might be able to assist with Enterprise Group, perhaps tying in with school fundraising and also detailed the Move Business Group at The Hub. ID expressed that a Committee is needed in order to do this, some Snr school pupils alongside Parents but not alongside teachers. Very keen for YP to be involved in all working groups.

A letter will be put together hopefully attracting right individuals, having a Goal will help, however ID aware that PTA reference is quite terrifying for most.

LM advised that 'friends of BA' with a view to obtaining charity status, if raising £5,000 banks will match fundraising effort. ID confirmed intention going forwards.

## New Accomodation

ID notified members that the new units are working really well and have surpassed all expectations. Units were necessary as the school role has increased considerably. Exits and Entrances have been adjusted at the main school site and everything is going very smoothly.

## **4 AOCB**

### Direct Teacher Contact Availability

LA noted a parent had requested that matter be raised whereby attempts to contact a teacher via the Guidance teacher had led to a delay of two weeks before the teacher in question was spoken to. ID advised 'pick up phone', sending emails can be frustrating, there is a lot of parent contact including via Satchel. School try to respond immediately and Guidance Teachers responsibility to respond. Emails directed to office will be directed to most appropriate teacher. If a parent is not getting appropriate service then escalate, go to year head and then HeadTeacher.

### Librarian position update

SM requested update re librarian position – ID advised that only two applications were received in respect of the position, one being withdrawn prior to interview. Unfortunately the remaining applicant was not appointed and the position has been returned to LA for readvertising with consideration for an essential criteria to be readjusted to desirable. This will take time and is in process presently. There will be no like for like replacement for Mrs Thomas and finding the right person to fill the role cannot be understated, given the safe haven provided for many within the library.

### Awards ceremony

LA queried photographs being made available following the Awards ceremony, ID advised that the school are still waiting for media publication of photographs ID has been in contact with the Herald. KF advised contact details for Corporate Comms, also other contacts detailed by JC in Glasgow Herald and LA for Herald. Also X (Twitter) and School website available.

### Dangerous Cycling

LA advised members that a resident within Thomas Avenue has reported dangerous cycling – wheelies- being undertaken by pupils, giving the individual quite a fright. ID assured that he will address this personally, particularly following an incident occurring recently.

### Awareness

AR wished to clarify who was looking after maintenance of school calendar and website in absence of Mrs Thomas. ID advised that the PT for Digital Literacy was undertaking this and he will check that this is being attended to.

### Inclusion Captaincy Role

SMcC expressed her delight in seeing this role being created and advertised. ID detailed that Ciara McCartney had made a significant impact in her time at the school, leading events through PSE, assemblies or whole school events. There are no fixed boundaries and pupils are able to nominate themselves for the selection process, which will culminate in formation of a committee. SMcC advised that Ciara would be happy to be involved if required.

### Strike Dates

KM queried whether support staff will be striking. ID advised HT meeting next week, Chief Education Officer has indicated only one union has mandate for strike known. Everything possible is being done in order to try and keep schools open given due regards for safety and cleanliness, all HTs have been consulted following the known disruption from strikes last session. Full picture is not yet known as if all three unions – GMB, Unison and Unite - become involved it will be difficult to keep schools open.

JC thanked all for their attendance.

Following conclusion of the meeting ID afforded all members the opportunity to see the new modular classrooms.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – AGM – 6.30pm - Assembly Hall**