

BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND AGM OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2024



Present: Jonathan Campbell, Allison Lunan, Lynn Armour, Kirstie Mendham, Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Kenneth Lawani, Julie Watson, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Cllr Gordon Low, Deborah Hart, Linda Lumsden, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Ian Donaghey, Melanie McKendrick, Steph Fowler, Lyndsay Murray, Shuk Mei Law

Apologies: Deb Hart, Cllr Alan Moir, Kate Ferguson.

1 WELCOME

JC extended a warm welcome to all attending meeting.

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

Easter Revision Programme

ID expressed his thanks to the Local Authority and staff, the Raising Attainment initiative Easter Revision Programme was again supported this year. It was well attended with over 200 S4s signed up and a total of 350 S5/6 pupils taking part. This gives YP consistent structure to SQA exams. ID also grateful for SLT present for any issues and chasing up any absences. Hopeful that initiative can run in future years. SQA exams started on Monday and has gone smoothly so far.

S6 Leavers event

ID advised members that the S6 leavers event took place on Friday. Behaviour was impeccable, with staff and pupils enjoying the mutual appreciation displayed and leavers being respectful and mindful of younger people in school. Lunch took place at Woodhill Evangelical Hub. Prom is looked forward to.

Family Learning Event

A family learning event is to take place in May, following a Glasgow University PhD study into sleep deprivation in YP, which has been ongoing with some pupils. Social Media and mobile device use details an extraordinary amount of time being spent by YP on screen time. The event will not only celebrate what is going on in that group but also provide parental workshops to encourage responsible behaviour. A good family learning event detailing the issues with sleep and social media, how much time is being spent on screen, getting support to put restrictions in place and getting YP to disconnect from devices. Screen glasses with a blue light filter can assist and sleep hygiene tips will be provided, it will be an opportunity for people to share strategies. There will also be a mindfulness corner and intervention ideas tree.

This has been on the back of the SHINE survey with mindfulness and is a better approach. Barista will be on site too with decaf coffee and sleep promoting energy foods will be on offer. This is a culmination of a project running for a number of months.

Staffing

ID detailed that it is a busy time presently. 8 teachers have been interviewed for the PT English post, over 20 applicants received and a very strong fleet. There has been 53 applicants for the two English teaching posts, 10 have been leeted, interviews and classroom observations will take place on Thursday. Discussion took place in respect of parental contact being made with either Guidance or year head, ID clarified PT subjects won't generally have contact with parents. High number of applicants for BA posts, in comparison to other schools, discussed. ID believes a number of reasons primarily reputation of school, bigger school resulting in pay rise for some and also its position to the North of Glasgow with easy access to central belt travel networks.

ID advised also some temp staffing positions coming up in Maths, Computing, Science and Enhanced Learning Resource.

Vision, Values, Aims

ID notified the meeting that the School Vision, Values and Aims has now been finalised and will be launched with staff at the service day in May, tying in with the School improvement priorities. Efforts will be made to structure it so that it is better for parents to comment and give opportunity for consultation process from larger parent body. Vision – power of three - what we are trying to aspire to, focusing on relationships, learning and teaching, attainment and achievement. Improvement priorities will include these three things. Values will also help and all will be aligned. ID expressed his excitement about launching, it will be drafted and sent out to parents and staff, it will be closely aligned to Education Service Plan from LA and will be easier to remember. Big launch will take place in May.

4 AOCB

Published Sunday Times Exam League Table

LM requested clarification in respect of BA appearing at number 20 in the list, seemingly having dropped 10 places. ID provided members with the Scottish Government electronically detailed results regarding **Highers** achieved (5 or more at Grade C or above), BA is clearly tenth within this list. ID explained that the manner of reporting for the Sunday Times list, has now moved to inclusion of **Level 6 SCQF** awards **within** the Highers bracket too, although this has not been detailed at all on the reported list. ID then amended the search parameters on the results list to also include the SCQF Level 6 award and the results were amended to those published. For clarity if a YP achieves 4 Highers and a Level 6 SCQF award then they will appear on the list as having '5 or more Highers' even though that is not the case. Level 6 SCQF awards are a different type of award, for example the first aid course completed by the current S4 year group is a Level 6 SCQF award. These awards also do not accrue the same number of tariff points as a Higher National Award. ID expressed that the language of report should make it clear that the parameters used for the league table have changed from previous years so parents are properly informed. This has been discussed with Greg Bremner in advance of the meeting. Members discussed the information provided and expressed that it is very apparent to parents that the school cares for YP, who leave with incredible results, it

was felt that the school care and would never try to strive for league table position at detriment of YP.

GL clarified that a number of schools in LA area did not feature on league table, nothing negative is to be taken from this as all are doing very well. ID has been responsible for attainment since 2010 and can speak knowledgeably about this, nothing has changed and school will continue to get decisions right for YP, amendment to league table has the notion of visually trying to close the attainment gap. All headteachers are aware and feel similarly. Certain practices can be adopted in order to get more additionality.

Council Plans for School Crossing Patrols

LM and KM both expressed concern regarding recent council report detailing the removal of School Crossing Patrols. GL clarified that SCP are not applicable to secondary schools, there is also no plan for them to be removed from primaries. Across the LA area there are 52 SCP, 28 posts remain vacant presently, despite over two years of advertising the vacant posts unsuccessfully. Council have attended Parent Councils at primary schools and presently there is to be a complete review carried out with consideration of mechanised crossings to fill the space. KM highlighted the risks and whether any contingency as 28 SCP have no provision presently and detailed that report does read as though the role of SCP is to be removed. LM further detailed that no advert had been visible in respect of Woodhill. SMcL advised seeing job advertised generally at least twice over recent months. GL informed members that review will take as long as it is going to take. Council decision made on 26/03/24- it is not a credible position at Primary schools Parent Council to keep re advertising when no one applies for the job. A similar problem is being experienced across the country.

Council Plans for Cleaning

LA sought clarification on the removal of day care cleaners from schools and impact this will have on establishment staff.

GL advised that the day cleaners were those that were employed for the purpose of the COVID Pandemic cleaning requirements. As we are now out of the pandemic there is no longer any requirement for this level of service. 30 positions are now vacant and the role will be phased out. Staff will be redeployed to other housekeeping roles and done voluntarily - LA is reverting to pre COVID level of staffing with no impact for anyone.

Girls Activity Day

LM Sought clarification on why boys PE lesson was cancelled in order to facilitate girls activity day at school, expressing concern that a video was watched during the cancelled lesson and queried whether a boys activity day could also be held.

ID explained that it is a National Day promoted by the Government in order to try and encourage girls to remain involved in sports. Statistics were supplied and support the fact that there is a gender gap in the continuance of sport with 1.3 million girls dropping sport when they can. Interestingly 30% parents think it is important for girls to continue sport as opposed to 41% for boys. ID detailed that it was not a full day of activity for the girls, all had a double period of sport and the 7th period was spent with sports captains talking to BGE pupils about appearance. ID also expressed that the videos were sporting documentaries and only one period was impacted.

ID also advised there are lots of extra curricular activities ongoing. The school will host the annual Sports Awards in June with former NQT Mel Woods presenting at it. Following a road

bike accident, Mel was paralysed from the waist down and now represents Scotland and the UK in the Commonwealth and Paralympic Games. The idea of the Sports Awards is to raise awareness and acknowledge and celebrate participation. Statistics and shine survey support the activity and girls are exposed to a range of activities which might inspire them. Discussion took place regarding the number of extra curricular activities - one member commented that girls are not able to get on the pitch owing to boys playing football. ID advised that there are two members of SLT on the pitch through lunch and the school is also blessed with alternative pitches, basketball courts, tennis courts and a huge quadrangle. Assembly Hall also opened up with bleaches out. He clarified that these days exist in order to encourage participation and research backs this up.

Registration for Duke of Edinburgh Award

Discussion took place regarding D of E as nothing has been heard since practice walk. ID advised that practice walk only took place in the middle of March before the two week Easter Break, same staff were also involved with Easter Revision. All pupils that expressed an interest by the deadline had the opportunity to participate in the practice walk. Further information is then shared with pupils about what DofE involves and there is usually a small drop-out rate as pupils become more aware of the commitment involved. Pupils that want to remain involved will be assigned a Mentor and preparation for May/June expeditions then take place. All communication is through Satchel and further updates will be in the next few weeks. ID clarified there is no criteria for inclusion in the scheme and all pupils catered for.

School Leavers Hoodies & Year Book

JW advised members that the school leavers hoodies and year book were not available on time this year. ID detailed that it is organised by the pupil leadership team and overseen by a member of staff. Some organise hoodies and some organise the book. ID understands it is very disappointing for the pupils not to have these items on their last day before SQA exams as pupils like to get their Yearbook signed by their friends and staff. Pupils will be allowed to do this when they receive the books. ID acknowledged that it is not good enough and will look into ensuring it does not happen again. Suggestion made that perhaps PTA may link in and help drive this forward with advance planning in order to ensure that it doesn't reoccur.

JC thanked all for their attendance.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 4th June 2024 – Conference Room