

BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND THE AGM OF THE
PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2025



Present: Allison Lunan, Kirstie Mendham, Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Jo Whittet, Lynn Armour, Steph Fowler, Peter Tracy, Julie Watson, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Ian Donaghey, Kenneth Lawani, Linda Lumsden, Cllr Gordon Low, Rahul Garg, Melodie Crumlin

Apologies: Jonathan Campbell, Julie Dey, Kate Ferguson, Cllr Collette McDiarmid, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Cllr Alan Moir, Melanie McKendrick,

1 WELCOME

AL 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. To be uploaded onto school website.

- SMcL advised members that reply was forwarded to parent regarding discussion and decision in respect of uniform policy. Response received from parent read to all members.
- Update re Constitution amendment – AL notified that the small working party have met, considered and discussed the current constitution following comparison with other schools' constitutions. Provisional rewrite is in progress. Matter ongoing and will be fully reported in due course.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Authority Review Feedback

ID advised members in respect of the Local Authority review undertaken. Four key areas assessed (mirroring those for an Education Scotland review). LA review findings matched the initial scoping review submission by the school (a self assessment) as follows; 1. Leadership of Change – Excellent, 2. Learning, Teaching and Assessment – Very Good, 3. Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion – Very Good and 4. Raising Attainment and Achievement – Excellent. This presents a true picture of the school, ID delighted to have achieved two excellent markings and aims to work on achieving excellent in areas 2 and 3. Lenzie Academy was subject to Education Scotland review within 1 year of LA review, however it is unknown when Education Scotland will visit.

Despite being advised by review team that response from nearly 700 parents was an exceptional uptake in respect of parent response to questionnaires, although ID expressed disappointment and would like to see increase in response, as these provide very clear information in respect of the school. ID provided members with presentation regarding parent, pupil and staff questionnaire responses. Some detail as follows;

Parents - 99% overall satisfied with school, 98% would recommend school to other parents, 96% satisfied child is making good progress at school and 97% satisfied with quality of teaching within the school.

Pupils – 97% feel safe at school, 94% stated school helped them feel safe.

Staff – 100% have a clear understanding of social, cultural and economic context of school, 94% report children and YP are well behaved.

Comments from pupil questionnaires show this is a great school and extremely positive comments were received in both staff and parents questionnaires. ID happy that this is a true and fair reflection of the school and is delighted.

Discussion took place regarding the response as ID seeks to optimise response further. It was clarified that the questionnaires are set by Education Scotland and shortening them is not an option. No one queried the questionnaire. General response from parent body at primary level was far lower and it was pointed out that a response level of over 50% was an excellent response. ID discussed the importance of Inspection, there is an impact on the community and he discussed the changes of the local demographic since the 2012 Inspection. One of these significant changes is the increase in the number of families living within catchment, meaning the school no longer has the capacity to support placing requests. ID wanted honesty to highlight areas to improve upon so when Inspectors do arrive, the school can be showcased.

When asked ‘What areas do you want to improve.’ ID detailed as follows;

Increase middle leadership opportunities, eg PT teachers. Pupil Leadership opportunities at BGE S3 point, continuing to address this. Feedback from review in respect of **Learning and Teaching** has highlighted managing pace in lessons, this is a balance between old learning (last lesson) and new learning (today's lesson) - share lesson aim, recap learning with effective question and response techniques to allow more time to new learning. SLT and PTs have met to discuss the quality assurance of learning and teaching. During prelim exam period, this has allowed PTs to allow staff to sign up to attending identified ‘excellent practise’ staff classes to enable self development for own classes. **Ensuring Wellbeing, Inclusion and Quality** was very close to an excellent, however area for improvement is the accurate recording of the pastoral side and profiling, one or two gaps need closing. More structure is to be given to house tutor time. As an example, siblings can have a very different experience. Tutor needs to check in with YP during this time as informal conversation can provide a wealth of information. **Attainment and Achievement**, more dual presentations particularly at S4, if there is an element of doubt for Nat 5 result then YP can be entered for Nat 4 too, this is being considered, it is something that school do but not as many as other schools. Final presentation models is always discussed and agreed with pupils and parents. This will be considered at end of month, PTs will assess and DHTs will make relevant phone calls so it will not be a surprise to parents and different options will be considered, fundamentally decision will be down to pupil and parent.

ID notified members that the school self evaluation was reflective of the LA review. BA is the only school to have it remain the same, a very accurate self evaluation.

Curriculum and Option Choice Process

ID advised that there is a new curriculum and subjects on offer for pupils moving to S4, including Gaelic for Learners and Travel and Tourism. S5 and 6 have alternative to Highers and Advanced Highers with National Progression Awards (eg SCQF Level 6) in subjects such as Acting and Performance, Social Health and Travel and Tourism (latter now available from S3-6).

ID informed members PT of Pathways, Cameron Carey is responsible for the development of Pathways, an excellent document presenting a comprehensive and progressive trail for each subject choice, with flow chart styled educational and vocational options clearly identified for young people to easily follow. Senior Information Evening has taken place for S4 on 13th January and S2 will be on 20th January. Monitoring and Tracking data will continue to be provided and key dates for options process commencing are S3 – 6th January with forms to be returned by 13th, S4- 14th January forms to be returned 21st, S5- 27th January forms to be returned 31st and S2 – 24th February with forms to be returned on 3rd March.

Prelim Analysis

Prelims for S5/6 are still ongoing and S4 prelims concluded prior to Christmas break. Having viewed these in comparison to previous years, ID currently very pleased, results very good for prelims. Second block of supported study running from Mon 24th February for six weeks until the commencement of the exam diet. It is becoming more and more difficult to secure budget for the Easter revision programme, however this has managed to be secured for this year and is running for the first week of the Easter holidays, Mon 7th – Fri 11th April. ID explained this also shows YP that with a bit of structure they can manage revision and also have holiday. Other interventions for YP needing additional help in form of workshops.

S3 also receiving support in form of aspirational workshops delivered by Live N Learn, these show that YP have to invest effort and hard work.

ID detailed the Sunday Times reporting League Table with % YP leaving school with 5 or more Highers, no-one aware of figures or whether last years manner of reporting also followed with SCQF level 6 awards also included. ID shared BA Tariff points of pupils who remain at Bishopbriggs Academy for all 6 years and the total they accumulate compared to all other EDC schools. In terms of total tariff points accumulated, Bishopbriggs Academy pupils significantly achieve more than any other school in EDC and have done for the past 5 years.

SQA Timetable

ID notified members that the SQA exam timetable presently details three exams taking place on 7th May, with Higher English in the morning, followed by Higher Childcare and Development **and** Higher Psychology in the afternoon session. Four pupils are affected by this. Also on 28th May Higher ESOL and Cantonese and Mandarin are also running concurrently, again affecting a small number of pupils. ID explained that SQA had been notified of this and had advised the school would need to ensure pupils were suitably invigilated, in separate accommodation if necessary, in order to ensure exam criteria was observed. Discussion took place among members regarding this. It is not known whether other schools are also affected by this scheduling and ID confirmed that this has not happened before.

ACTION – SMcL to prepare letter for sending on behalf of PC to SQA and MSP

Gaelic & Shinty

ID advised that a separate review for Gaelic was being undertaken on 3rd & 4th Feb as this could not be fully supported by the LA review. Ishbal Macleod, PT Gaelic, and Lesley Wilson, DHT link for Gaelic, will ensure every aspect reviewed. Further update from previous meeting. - School has been trying for two years to recruit a further Gaelic teacher, however had been unsuccessful owing to the necessity of only been able to advertise a temporary position, this causing major obstacle for those in a position to be able to fulfil the role (i.e relocation of family). ID expressed gratitude to the LA who have now granted permission for advertising a permanent position. SMcL requested that Comann Nam Parant

be made aware of this update, may be able to assist in suitable applicants. Ishbal MacLeod PT Gaelic will be having leave of absence and an Acting PT post is also to be advertised.

All PE staff have now undertaken Shinty training so this will also be introduced in PE at BGE level, this will further integrate Gaelic into school life.

4 AOCB

S4 Prelim and Study Leave Questionnaire

LA asked whether it would be possible for a free text comments box as felt needed to expand answers with no provision to do so. ID advised that this had not been done before and wanted to get feedback from all. Questions were very deliberate to prompt both pupils and parents to reflect on what they would do differently. E.g Mobile phone was questioned, was this a distraction? ID advised 31% pupils and 28% parents believed study effective, not much of a disparity. Past papers were considered the most popular revision method but there is no one set way to study. Results of questionnaire were shared with members. 55% pupils listened to music whilst studying, 13% used voice recordings, 19% used rewards. 72% parents would like further support to help study. Simple strategies available – turn off mobile phone. Questionnaire is a means of reflection in order to better develop study methods. LA believes study leave beneficial and ID advised that school is trying to prepare YP for the real thing. YP can still access school during study leave but must attend school in uniform, some will attend library which is always open. Questionnaires will be worked through in order to provide strategies for YP, particularly regarding mobile phone distraction, emphasising short sharp sessions. YP need to be engaged and avoiding distractions requires discipline. KM noted the ‘Do not Disturb’ function of a phone is a useful tool, ID advised parents who facilitate study reap rewards for their YP.

School Capacity

ID updated members that intake for next years S1 has been capped at 240, however the number of young people within the catchment may well be more than that (considering current roll of P7 in associated primary schools being 253). Admissions criteria will be applied. BA, St. Ninians and Bearsden also provide East Dunbartonshire’ Enhanced Learning Resource facility, these numbers will also be incorporated into the 240. Discussion took place among members regarding entry criteria including siblings, moving out of area, catchment etc. ID knows there is an Active Fraud team but is not aware of any investigation results. GL expressed that he is aware of issue and can address it as best as possible. LA have supported school with additional funding to cope with increase in roll, staff, modifications etc ID explained that canteen staffing deficit for lunch time is proving issue as temporary posts are not being applied for, there is not a possibility of ‘shift’ style rotation and canteen can only house 210-220 max. Social space has been extended as Assembly Hall is now also utilised, before Covid YP would sit on floor, thankfully space doubled by opening up assembly hall doors. ID trying to make lunch a slicker process, quick hand out for example. RG queried whether it was known the percentage of parents moving out of area after securing a place. ID clarified this would be a fraud team issue. He also advised that sometimes there may be complex reasons behind a family moving outside of catchment after enrolment e.g. family separation, bereavement etc.

KM observed that the sixth year study space is also freezing, ID advised convection heaters have been bought in as temperature shown to be 15 degrees, the problem has been highlighted and a slight modification is required to the front doors in order that they will close, this is in

hand. Assembly hall in contrast is much warmer, however sixth year space, very social group and stick to their desired area.

AL thanked everyone for their attendance.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 25th February 7pm – Conference room