

**BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING AND THE AGM OF THE**  
**PARENT COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025**



Present: Allison Lunan, Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Lynn Armour, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Ian Donaghey, Linda Lumsden, Cllr Gordon Low, Jonathan Campbell, Kenneth Lewani, Kate Ferguson, Julie Watson, Kirstie Mendham, Cllr Alan Moir.

Apologies: Jo Whittet, Stephanie Fowler, Julie Day, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Melanie McKendrick, Shona McCarthy, Hazel Fisher, Melodie Crumlin.

**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. To be uploaded onto school website.

- **Constitution** – Working party (comprising of AL, KM, LA, KF and SMcL) have compiled an amended constitution which has been forwarded to all members for consideration. The document has been substantially reduced with irrelevant material removed, is in plain English, welcoming and more readable. It has been designed to tie in with the school VVA and is more fit for purpose. Agenda item concerning dates of PC meetings, was discussed regarding varied meeting days through session, or to be retained on Tuesdays. A vote was held and 10 out of 11 members elected for set date to continue. It was also agreed 6 meetings per year are adequate and would remain unchanged. New constitution document will be finalised by KF and forwarded for inclusion on the school website in due course.

**3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

School Improvement Planning

ID expressed SIP really important and is being aligned with the schools new VVA. ID provided members with a break down of how this will be achieved. Going forwards he is wanting parent consultation to continue and questionnaire viewed and tweaked to improve response of parents. Review team impressed with previous parental response and commented upon favourably. This is the second year that it is being aligned with school VVA. Efforts have been made to streamline SIP as previously too many targets created to successfully achieve all. Once aligned and streamlined it provides greater clarity. School making learning and teaching fun and our young people are achieving; this helps provides direction and meaning, improving relationships, learning and teaching. Important parents understand that self evaluation is ongoing and continuous and will be conducted after every event whether at the event via QR code or questionnaire. 800 parental responses were received prior to local authority review and school is already data rich. EDC education plan - National priorities will ensure SIP aligns with that, final consultation following pupil voice and council, is already aligned and next in service day time is set aside for staff to review targets for next year, then individual department plans to align with SIP and then development for next year's curriculum - this is how we go about it. Priorities reviewed in line with VVA - Together we care – respect, relationships is the priority target and use promoting positive relationships

policy to achieve this. Staff have received circle training, in the environments of classroom young people feel comfortable with routine, welcoming environment for young people to function. Behaviour points are aligned with new values of respect, effort and resilience and give comments and specific feedback to pupils and parents as to why they have been awarded. Keeping the Promise training - responsibilities school and home. Twelve further staff are being trained in mental health, taking the total to 48, this provides a greater understanding of the three Rs (regulate relate and reason) young people - how triggered, how to improve relationships. Do it in way YP engages. Attendance policy - regular meeting with Guidance & Year Head to discuss - emotional based attendance avoidance. Time keeping policy, similar vein of thought - important attendance and time keeping. Together we learn – Effort/ Teaching B8. Tried to ensure consistent approach to teaching across school to deliver effective learning and teaching in assemblies, learning and teaching ambassadors all departments engage in lesson study - collaborative lesson planning in respect of a particular student, one member of staff teaches, two others view it from young person's perspective then they evaluate following the lesson with learning points and how to better scaffold lesson. Other methodologies, heads of departments arrange reciprocal visits, which involves staff pairing up to observe each other and pick up learning points or may do direct observation. There is also a week of good practice when staff can observe other members of staff from across the school, all 32 periods are available to staff. Knowing how young person is performing via monitoring and tracking. Moderation diet - standards compared, exercises occur to ensure standard same across the board. Learning conversations – ID doesn't think any school does any better - target grade, working grade with four reports, 2 parents evening with updates on grades, like to think pupil and parents are very informed on YP progress. Are others not fulfilling potential? Conversations to be had and time has being made to ensure those conversations are had. Together we thrive - Attainment and achievement, ensure closing attainment gap, there's many barriers to this principally attendance, mental health & trying to support young person to overcome that. Alternative pathways - contingency planning. Ensure YP remain competitive. Meta skills - human qualities can't be replaced with artificial intelligence, if YP aware of their meta skills it makes them understand and be able to sell themselves (ties in with school vision) in world of work. YP are immersed in it and will be embedded in them. School wants to hear from pupils, parents and staff. Are the priorities right? School wants to give parents opportunity to give feedback via consultation. Engagement - there is a high volume of responses from BA parents, Simplicity - wants to ensure that questionnaires are easy to complete and meaningful, consultation feedback via Microsoft form. (ID advised members that the first promethean TV has been rolled out in a class today with the intention that all smart boards will be replaced with these as their clarity is far superior enabling all class members to be able to view easily). Proposed consultation document viewed and discussion among members took place in respect of its contents. Small amendments made to ensure questions will gather pertinent information, questionnaire is to be put out to the parent body next week.

### A Play, A Pint and A Crime

ID Informed members that PC Toner, Police Scotland school liaison officer, contacted the school inquiring whether there was anything school can do to assist elderly residents not to be scammed. Performing arts club putting on play, educating common scams . An open invite has been extended to the community, including the parent body. Guests are invited to the performance which is scheduled for 2:00 PM next Thursday PC Toner attended rehearsal last week, the overall impression has been very favourable with the assistant district commander expressing wish to also attend, there is no age limit on the performance as anyone is capable of being scammed.

### EDC Consultation on Mobile Phone Use in Schools

Discussed the EDC consultation on mobile phone use in schools with the questionnaire forwarded via e-mail to parents yesterday, pupils have received their questionnaire today and staff will be undertaking their questionnaires tomorrow. ID is unsure what stance EDC will take in respect of the results, whether there would be a blanket policy for all schools or whether each school will have autonomy to decide. He encourages all parents, young people and staff to fully engage with the questionnaire in order to ensure everyone provides their opinion. Discussion took place with members - there is a very different opinion in respect of this for a primary aged child or a secondary aged child, presently BA gives autonomy to teachers to decide on the classroom use, there have never been any issues in the classroom and teachers have the freedom to make their own choice. Mobile use is permitted if it enhances learning and teaching eg encouraging completion of questionnaires in registration, school is fully supportive of any teachers decision - some young people are not able to use mobile at school, it's case by case management policy is enforced as seen fit.

### Parent Teacher and Friend Association

ID provided a brief introduction for the parent, teacher and friends association which has been re-established and is now up and running. Aim being to raise additional funds to support and enhance extracurricular provision, partnership fundraising events and potential sponsorship, provide range of fund-raising activities to purchase a new school minibus and improved sound system in the hall. Ongoing actions are to re-establish the PTA, now referred to as the PTFA, the constitution has been formed alongside the committee, agreed targets for school session 25/26 communicated with our wider school community and established the funding platform Good Hub. A discussion took place with regards to sponsorship and gifts to school and the ownership of it. Section 79 of the Education Scotland Act 1980 was highlighted as being the area of legislation that clarifies local authority ownership of any gift or bequest to the school. Funding platform Good Hub makes it much easier to manage. ID wishes to note the quantity of work undertaken in a small space of time has been fantastic by the small number of people involved (many being members of PC). ID highlighted that pupil equity funding is only contracted until next April this will be a £74,000 loss to the school next year.

## **4 AOCB**

### Study Programme and Easter Revision

LA, JC and SMcL all expressed their thanks to teachers and school providing both the study programme and the Easter revision programme, the time given up by staff is very much appreciated. ID advised 186 out of 220 S4 pupils signed up, 260 S5 and S6 pupils signed up. 60 staff ran 60 sessions for the Nat 5 curriculum, 98 staff ran 98 sessions for S5 and S6, all 5 days were covered.

### Commendable Behaviour by S6 Pupils on Last Day

LA wished to note the commendable behaviour by S6 pupils on their last day, she attended with friends of Marley fields to undertake a clear up of any litter the following morning. There was minimal rubbish left and received favourable comments regarding the behaviour of the young people. ID advised behaviour within school was impeccable. S6 leavers were treated to lunch at the Eagle lodge and will be having their prom in due course.

### Uniform Policy

LA expressed that four people, two previous pupils and two parents of new S1 pupils had expressed to her that they felt the standard of uniform was slipping. ID explained that the

landscape has changed considerably. Local Authority Review loved the strong uniform policy displayed within the school the Pupil Equity Fund / cost of living crisis may have impacted small minority of parents who don't agree with uniform. There are a number of young people who walk to school wearing trainers but change into shoes at school, uniform passes for some who experience ASD issues and some have parental notes owing to parents not supporting school uniform policy, this had been discussed fully at AGM. ID puts out a reminder of school uniform bank in June and also provides a link to clothing bank vouchers. Babes in the Wood also provide uniforms as does Auchinairn community hub. ID provided clarity that young people are allowed to wear boots - black leather, not Ugg style, in winter months!

### School Estate

SMcL requested clarification whether there will be any amendment in respect of school capacity, given the Government Schools Estates information for 2024 shows no amendment to either capacity or proposed building works for the school, whose roll will be 1350 for next session. ID notified members that he had contacted the LA and had been advised of the following; the roll is not being amended presently, 4 new classrooms provided for 2025 S1 cohort, cap of 240 pupils for each year group, inclusive of the ELR and Gaelic provision, both being EDC wide catchment. For the 2025/26 session there has been redirection of 9 S1 pupils meeting the entry criteria for BA, to Turnbull, should any vacancy subsequently arise going forwards priority to these redirections will be given over new pupils moving into the area. Capacity of ELR needs consideration of whole school role, teaching numbers for this are on a one to six ratio, there is no GLG (girfec liaison group) oversight now so specialist resource capacity will look to be increased. There are numerous building works being considered presently. SMcL advised that schools estate document needs to be amended if this is the case as the official documents recording these details is factually incorrect, ID noted this, he said his heart goes out to families who are finding out that their child is unable to attend the school.

ID also advised members that the Year Books and Hoodies were safely delivered to S6.

**JC thanked everyone for their attendance.**

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, 7pm – Conference room**