



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JUNE 2019

Present: Gordon Mouldsdales (GM); David Williams (DW); Robert Johnston (RJ); Allison Lunan (AL); Karen Thomas (KT); Jonathan Campbell (JC); Ian Donaghey (ID); Louise Oudega (LO); Cllr Gordon Low (GL); Cllr Gary Pews (GP); Carol Robertson (CR); Brigitte Schillmeier (BS); Marion McAlister (MM); Linda Bowers (LB)

In attendance: David Macdonald

Apologies: Jane McGrory (JM); Natalie Storey (NS); Sheena Murray (SM); Cllr Alan Moir (AM); Alison Keith (AK)

1 WELCOME

DW welcomed everyone to the meeting. In the absence of a Clerk to the Parent Council, KT took the minutes of the meeting.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of 23rd April 2019 were approved electronically before the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Donald Macdonald, Cycling Officer, Sustrans introduced himself to the Parent Council. He is speaking to all Parent Councils in Bishopbriggs to discuss the submission of a joint funding application to allow local communities to improve walking and cycling to school. He asked if members would like to find out more about this bid when further information becomes available after the summer holidays. Members agreed they would be interested in finding out more and Donald Macdonald will attend a meeting in the new session to provide further information.

DW thanked Donald Macdonald for his input who then left the meeting.

3 APPOINTMENT OF NEW VICE-CHAIR AND CLERK TO THE PARENT COUNCIL

Following the resignation of David Phillips, nominations are required for the post of Vice-Chair. AL asked what this would entail. DW replied that it is not an onerous post and the main duty is deputising for the Chair when they are not present at a PC meeting. JC was nominated by LO. This was seconded by CR and JC was appointed as Vice-Chair.

LO offered to undertake the post of Clerk to the Parent Council. This was also agreed.

4 PARENTAL CONSULTATION – I. DONAGHEY

ID had issued copies of the School Improvement Plan priorities 4 and 5 prior to the meeting. These highlight the need to increase parental consultation and involvement in the school improvement planning and self-evaluation process. ID described the improvement planning process in which information is drawn from a variety of sources such as local and national priorities, school self-evaluation and Departmental Improvement Plans to draw up the School Improvement Plan. During session 2018-19 parents were asked for their views through

online surveys. The results of these have been collated and issued to PC members for discussion on how this can be taken forward.

ID then discussed the targets for session 2019-20 in more detail and highlighted those which would benefit most from input from PC members. He asked for time to be set aside at each meeting to allow for strategic planning. This was agreed. Some targets require more immediate attention than others. ID will draw up a proposed timeline for session 2019-20 which will ensure all targets are discussed at some point at PC meetings over the coming year.

The targets will include:

1. Leadership and approach to improvement

- Create Parent Voice questionnaires that focus on the 5 school improvement priorities
- Consult with Parent Council on implementing suggested improvements from Parent Voice results

Last session two questionnaires were trialled. Next session five questionnaires will be introduced. The parents of each year group will be given one questionnaire. This will help to avoid parents being swamped with questionnaires. Members of the PC will then be asked to discuss the results of these questionnaires and to suggest how we can implement suggestions made.

2. Curriculum

- Sustain and develop links with external partners to enhance the delivery of courses, raising awareness of each subject within the context of the world of work and enable pupils to recognise the skills for learning, life and work they are developing to inform the planning of future learning

ID asked members if they have any contacts who could assist or provide advice on the above. If so, please contact ID with details. The school already has a database of contacts and we are keen to add to this and build upon links made with external businesses and organisations.

3. Learning, teaching and assessment of learners' progress

This does not require PC input at present but this may change in the future.

4. Partnerships, personalised support and parental engagement

- Utilise SMHW to give parents regular information on homework, pupil progress, whole school and departmental assessment calendars and resources that are specific to homework tasks

- Update GLOW resources in line with course changes so materials are relevant so stakeholders have a consistent experience across subjects and have access to similar resources
- Create video tutorials that will reinforce learning in the classroom at home

A considerable amount of work has gone in to revamping parents' information evenings, particularly the S4 Information Evening and the school is now looking at improvements to the S5 meeting to ensure consistency and continuation of the information provided. ID would welcome input from PC members on how this can be achieved.

Parents want to know more about subjects, however, they often find the generic 'Nationals in a Nutshell' off putting. Therefore, we would prefer to write our own versions which would be more relevant to the parents of Bishopbriggs Academy. Each department would write their own version. Members' input would be helpful in terms of the content required. ID would also welcome help on the interpretation of terminology used in pupil reports.

As well as the general calendar on SMHW, specific calendars will be created for each year group to ensure parents and pupils receive relevant, targeted information.

There needs to be more regular communication to share resources to ensure parents do not need to solely rely on parents' evenings and reports for information. Some departments are looking at the possible use of video resources such as clips of classroom teaching.

5. Successes, achievements and outcomes for learners

- Sustain and develop stakeholders' awareness of the career education standard entitlements and career pathways within subject. Continue to increase engagement with My World of Work resources
- Continue to expand Work Experience provision by utilising partner database

ID noted the importance of raising awareness of career pathways and the resources available on My World of Work and reiterated his previous request for any members who can help with contacts to get in touch with him.

Once the dates of next session's PC meetings are agreed, ID will set up a proposed timeline and look at how we can take this forward. Input from members is welcomed on any of the targets within the School Improvement Plan and not just those discussed at the tonight's meeting. ID thanked members for their input this session.

Documentation will be sent to PC members via email. LO suggested using Microsoft Teams for this. ID will look into this to see if it could be used as a method of communication for the PC. DW agreed that time could be set aside for discussion at each meeting.

RJ asked if these targets are partly set down to encourage parental involvement with pupils' homework. GM replied that it is our task to equip parents with the skills to assist their children. Pupil equity requires that we need to support all parents. SMHW is helping a number of parents to do so, however, for some parents there are barriers to prevent them helping their children. Family Engagement evenings are useful in showing parents how they can support their children, both with learning and to thrive in general. RJ agreed this is a

great goal as he is sure all parents would not know how to assist their children at all levels of each subject.

GM stated that the Scottish Government has made it a priority to enable parents to take a greater role in their child's education and is putting the onus on parents to do so. At Bishopbriggs Academy, we are very fortunate to have high levels of parental engagement and most are very supportive of their child and the school, however, we cannot be complacent and can do better. Schools and education have changed dramatically in the last 15 years and schools are very different to those experienced by the parents of our pupils. We have a moral responsibility to support parents as best we can.

CR asked the percentage of parents who do not access SMHW. ID receives a termly report from SMHW. We have the highest parental engagement of SMHW in the UK. In particular, the use of SMHW by parents of pupils in S1 – S3 is very high. There are still some parents, who for whatever reason, do not use SMHW but who are still very involved and interested in their child's education. It is important to continue to promote SMHW and its benefits at parents' meetings and any opportunity which arises.

DW noted that encouraging staff to use SMHW is a major step in its success and hopefully parents will follow. ID replies that consistent staff use makes SMHW much more effective. All homework tasks and submission dates are now on SMHW and we will be developing this further in the new session. MM commented that SMHW is an invaluable tool for teachers for both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

GM stated that we have a strong ethos among staff to take on board new developments. When a new measure is introduced very few staff see this as an imposition. The groundwork carried out over the past five or six years has paved the way for the success of SMHW.

5. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

P7 Induction

GM spoke briefly about the difficult situation regarding placing requests. No placing requests have been granted for Bishopbriggs Academy for next session due to the very large number of young people who live within the catchment area who wish to attend Bishopbriggs Academy and who are entitled to do so. This is very disappointing for many parents.

Those who have a place at the school attended for two days at the end of May. Pupils were given a great deal of information, attended a number of different classes and are very excited about coming to the school. There was excellent feedback from both staff and pupils.

S5/S6 Induction Days

These took place on 3rd and 4th June. Pupils took part in a range of outdoor activities at Mugdock Park, Auchinstarry and Pinkston water sports. They also took art in a range of activities in school. These were very successful and pupils will begin their new timetable on 5th June.

Activities Week

This takes place at the end of term and a large number of trips are taking place both at home and abroad. These include trips to London, New York, Spain and Kenya as well as other more local trips and in school activities.

Staffing Update

We have welcomed two new staff - Ms Dunbar who teaches Psychology and Ms Young who joins the Chemistry department. GM requested eight NQTs and we are delighted to receive NQTs for seven out of the eight subjects requested.

Awards Ceremony – 6th June

Arrangements for this are in place and we look forward to welcoming pupils, their families and guests to the Ceremony.

School Show – All Shook Up

This takes place from 11th – 13th June. Tickets sales are going extremely well. It is a huge undertaking for both staff and pupils.

Prom

This takes place on Friday 14th June at the Old Fruit Market in Glasgow. A reception will take place at school beforehand. A large number of pupils and staff are attending.

S4 Transition Exams

S4 Transition exams ran from 30th May – 4th June. This was a big change from previous years and takes account of the reduction in subjects studied from nine in S3 to seven in S4. Following this, it was decided to alter the timing of these exams, so pupils would only sit exams in the seven subjects they are studying in S4. These exams are more robust, realistic and challenging and results will show how pupils are doing before the end of term and who may need support. This will enable measures to be in place for the start of the new term. Tests will be marked as soon as possible and GM and ID will then look at the results in late June and through the summer holidays.

6. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR SESSION 2019 – 2020

The dates for next session's meetings will follow a similar pattern to this year and will be as follows:

27th August 2019

5th November 2019 *Start time of 6.30pm, to enable AGM to begin at 7.00pm

7th January 2020

18th February 2020

21st April 2020

2nd June 2020

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GP put in his apologies for not being able to attend the Awards Ceremony. This is due to a rearranged full Council meeting being held the same evening.

BS asked what happens to lost property. GM is astounded at the amount of property. This is set out in the Social Space. Anything not claimed goes to charity. One of our PTA members is a teacher in a school with high levels of deprivation and suitable unclaimed items have also gone to her school. BS suggested that it may be useful to put out a list of lost property to parents.

DW closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and wished members a good summer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2019 AT 7.00PM