



Bell Baxter High School Parent Council

Minute of Meeting held on Tuesday 25th April, 2017 at 7.00 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Bell Baxter High School

Present: Karen Brown (Chair), Mandy Bateman, Holly Clark, Steve Fearn, Clare Finnie, Julie Goad, Ian Jones, Chantelle Kidd, Alex Moodie and Anita Petrie.

School Representatives: Philip Black (Rector), Brian Harris.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Karen Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from: Elaine Blake, Jon Gill, Joanne Haran, Julie Struthers, Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Poole.

2. Previous Minutes:

Approved.

3. Presentation - Colours Awards

Brian Harris (Depute Rector) spoke to the group about the process for the annual award of school colours. In February staff, pupils and parents are informed through the weekly update, emails, social education lessons and information posters around school about the nomination process. All information, criteria and the nomination forms are on the school website.

Mr. Harris reported on the criteria that the committee make decisions on. The committee includes pupils and a member of the Parent Council. Pupils are then invited to attend a ceremony to recognise the achievement and receive a certificate in addition to the colours braid.

A copy of the information sheet was issued to the group.

Last week pupils were awarded in the following categories:

Service to the school	46
Service to the community	6
Curricular Achievement	37
Aesthetic/Creative Achievement	27
Sporting Achievement	105
Wider Achievement	45

Feedback from the group highlighted that parents of junior pupils do not necessarily realise that it is for all year groups.

4. Upcoming General Election

Ian Jones highlighted that senior pupils will shortly be able to vote in the council and general elections. Ian asked Mr. Black what preparation the school is doing with these pupils for voting. Mr. Black acknowledged the information pupils receive in Modern Studies and Social Education generally. There is no lesson plan in preparation for the upcoming elections. We placed a great importance on the Scottish Youth Parliament elections last month with all year groups included. There can be different viewpoints in terms of the school's role to educate/inform young people of the importance/responsibility of their vote. Mr. Black stated that he would discuss this with staff in terms of a school responsibility.

5. **Parent Council Award**

The group has agreed in principle to an award. Discussion took place on the suggested categories shared prior to the meeting. Suggested that several categories be offered (teamwork, resilience and humanitarian).

Mr. Black suggested some written criteria that can then be used across the three categories and can future-proof it.

Ian Jones reported on the registered charity the school has with OSCR. Mr. Black gave background to the trust, how it is managed in school and steps being taken to modernise the trusts to meet school needs.

Agreed Action: 'The Parent Council Special Recognition Award' with criteria based on either teamwork, resilience or humanitarian achievement. Karen to write the criteria. Mandy to contact admin staff in school about procuring a trophy.

6. **Rector's Report**

Billy Elliot – Mr. Robb has made links with Newton Grange colliery to support the performance. It is hoped that some of the cast can visit the museum before the production.

Study Leave – starts next Tuesday for S4 – S6, during this time staff are able to focus more closely on S1-S3 as well as starting planning for next session.

Dining Hall – this will shortly be refurbished to make a more flexible space. There is no cost to the school for this upgrade. The curriculum wall was put up on the wall around the dining hall last term to show the progression through the school curriculum from S1 to S6.

Staffing – Mr. Black gave an update on long-term absence and vacancies at present. Some of the Pupil Equity Funding has been allocated to creating new posts in the area of nurture and wellbeing assigned to specific year groups working with small groups of children. Current staff have been appointed to these temporary posts.

P7 – visits are underway to all cluster primary schools issuing ties to all P7 pupils.

7. **Chairperson's Update**

The Police were invited to tonight's meeting but were unable to attend. Once a new date for the June meeting is agreed (due to the date change of the Junior Awards ceremony) Karen will confirm with the Police whether they are able to attend.

A number of Parent Council members met with Brian Harris yesterday to discuss the Education Service policy on the use of mobile phones. Mr Harris also shared with the group the updated Relationship and Behaviour Management policy and procedures. Mr. Black highlighted that the updated

Agreed Action: Karen to contact Brian Harris regarding the updated Relationship and Behaviour Management policy and procedures.

8. **Treasurer's Update:**

The fundraising account current balance is £365.30, the 20 compasses have now been purchased for use by Duke of Edinburgh, World Challenge, Maths and PE classes.

The 500 Club account balance is £1,702.96 – only 92 members now.

9. **A.O.C.B.:** None.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** to be confirmed.