

Baxter High School Board

Minutes of the meeting of Bell Baxter High School Board held on Tuesday 20th February, 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Café Bar, Carslogie Road.

Present: Michael Anderson, Alastair Crockett, Norma Davis (Chairman), Judith Fusaro (Vice-Chairman), Nancy Hainey, Lucy Jacob, Iain McLean, Shona McLeod, Bryan Poole,

In Attendance: Douglas Campbell, Cllr Margaret Kennedy, Eleanor Weststeyn, Chris Fusaro

1. **Apologies** – Jane Parker, Michael Ritchie, Karen Taylor, Cllr. Loretta Mordi.

2. **Adoption of Minutes** – agreed

3. **Matters Arising from Minutes** – Nil

4. **Correspondence** - Nil

5. **School Lets** – Nil

6. **Careers Scotland Presentation**

Maureen Campbell and Marion Barr, from Careers Scotland, addressed the Board. They began by completing an exercise with the Board which is normally done with S2 pupils. There are three areas of Careers Scotland in Fife – West, East and Central, and they represent East. The East Team comprises a Careers Adviser, Employment Adviser, Key Workers and an Enterprise Adviser for the Team. Sandy Napier is the Careers Adviser in School but he will be replaced by Veronica McMillan next term. The team's relationship with Bell Baxter is very good.

Services offered include sessions from Careers Box, which was paid for from the Determined to succeed budget, and placed in every school. The Careers Adviser is presently talking to the 17 S2 groups. He also does individual work with pupils on a self-referral basis. Staff can also ask him to see pupils whom they think might benefit from a meeting.

Marion spoke about the School Leavers Destinations return which is completed in October each year. Information on Destination of School Leavers with Scottish/Fife/Individual School comparisons issued. Also shown was the % of school leavers entering Higher Education, Further Education and Training from 1999-2000 to 2005-2006. The Team are about to do a follow-up of the October destination figures. In coming years they will focus on groups not in Further Education or Training and do preventative work to stop these young people becoming disengaged. Pupils who go on to institutions are followed through by the College in January/February when they do destination returns.

All the information issued is on the Government website.

Maureen and Marion were thanked for an interesting talk.

7. **All Weather Pitch - Update**

A meeting was held in school on 29th January. The plan is to go for a pitch without Community Use and a 6.00 p.m. switch-off. The Council are also working with the Community for a larger pitch at Duffus. There are issues for the huts due to the site of the new pitch, but a prefabricated building at the side of the gyms will be included in the

Capital Plan. It is proposed to keep the tennis court area with the hope that money will be available to resurface it in the next few years.

Cllr. Kennedy reported that John McLaughlin will have the papers in to planning by the end of the week and neighbour notification will then go out. It will go to the Planning meeting on 27th March.

8. Rector's Report

- i) Maximum class size of 20 in English and Mathematics – Executive have now come up with a package for the start of session of an average class size of 20. Staff will be recruited in English and Mathematics to accommodate 17 sections, although it may not be possible to get staff and there will also be accommodation problems.
- ii) Rugby Success – The success of the rugby team has been a fabulous event for the school and the community. The Community Council are awarding the Team the Young Citizens of the Year Award. There will also be a reception in school on the 6th March. Invitations given to Board members. School has also been contacted by the Provost of Fife who is to arrange a Civic Reception for the Team.
- iii) Valentine's Day Fundraiser – Valentine Candy hand delivered – to raise money for Tanzania Trip next year.
- iv) The Charities Group held a successful Ceilidh in school.
- v) Connecting Classrooms – The two successful pupils to represent the school in South Africa in March are Alice Miller and Laura Neville, S4. The presentations were judged by Iain Smith and Ted Brocklebank MSPs and the Rector. Two pupils from Waid Academy and Kirklands High School will also attend.
- vi) Re-launch of Scottish Athletics Programme – Sir Menzies Campbell, Honorary President of Scottish Athletics, was in school yesterday to launch the Scottish Athletics “grass roots” programme. The event was attended by local primaries and S1 pupils. There was also a question/answer session with S1 pupils.
- vii) Cross Country – the School did well in the Fife Schools' Cross country Championships winning 4 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- viii) Learning Game – S4 pupils are taking part in the Learning Game, This features examination preparation.
- ix) PTS Fund Fayre – a successful Fayre was held in the Corn Exchange last Saturday.
- x) S2/S4/S5 Curriculum Information Evening – will be held tomorrow evening. This follows the first S2 Parents Meeting. Course Choice Counselling begins next month.
- xi) James McVittie will be in school on Friday to complete an audit to look at the SQA Examination System. This will involve Senior Leaders, teachers and pupils.
- xii) The Rotary Inter-School Debate will be held at Waid Academy on 20th March.
- xiii) Staffing

- An Acting PT Guidance has been appointed to cover Sandra Hall's absence.
- Jack Chalmers, Mathematics, has retired from the departments and Mike McLaughlin, also Mathematics, will retire in March.
- Interviews will take place this week for – Additional PT Mathematics, Acting PT Pupil Support, Teacher Physics and Teaching Auxiliary.

9. 'A' Allocation

A spreadsheet showing the out turn figures for 2006-07 was issued. Pupil numbers in classes are re-calculated in November and following this the re-distribution of the 10% is made. A similar exercise for 2007-08 has been undertaken. The 100% Allocation for 2007-08 will start with 90% of the previous year's final allocation and this sum will be guaranteed. The 10% retention was also shown together with non-per capita budgets. The non-per capita budgets will be looked at again for 2007-08.

10. AOCB

Appointment of New Rector - The Chairman reported on the Rector interviews in which she and Nancy Hainey and Judith Fusaro represented the Board. Mr. Phil Black has been appointed to the post. Mr. Black will attend the next Board meeting.

The Senior Leadership Team in preparing Status Reports for Mr. Black.

The Board look forward to meeting Mr. Black next month and supporting his in the future.

Date of next Board meeting – Tuesday 20th March, 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Marie Lambert
Clerk to the School Board

23rd January, 2006.