



**Bathagte Academy Parent Council Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting held on  
Wednesday 21 November 2012**

**Present:** F Kenny, G Abbot, Cllr Cartmill, C Evans, Y Shaw, I Meek, S Mackie, S Weir, A Piwonska, J Jermonson, J Bryce, W Boyle, A Whyte

1. **Apologies:** Cllr McGinty, Cllr Dixon, S Gilliland, A Cringan, J Baird, A Smith, D Nelson
  
2. **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 26 September 2012**

Previous minutes discussed and agreed.

3. **Review of Parent Council Business 2011/2012**

F Kenny addressed the Group giving a review of Parent Council Business. School matters concerning staffing, curriculum and alterations to the fabrication of the premises all highlighted for consideration with a positive and encouraging outlook for the way forward.

Thanks were given to M Laurie in undertaking the role of Parent Council Clerk. Additional thanks relayed to S Mackie for the representation at Parent Council Rep Meetings.

On behalf of all Parent Council Members thanks were delivered to G Abbot for the overall enthusiasm and commitment shown in the newly appointed role as Head Teacher.

F Kenny informed group that her time as Chair had come to an end and on that note discussions ensued to appoint a new Chair and Vice Chair.

I Meek accepted position of Chair and C Evans will proceed as new Vice Chair. Both members were thanked and congratulated on their new appointments.

#### **4. Head Teacher Update – G Abbot**

G Abbot began update by discussing current staffing levels within the school. It was highlighted that there have been some recent concerns with staffing levels within the English faculty however this matter is being addressed accordingly to establish a suitable resolve.

The Bathgate Academy Website has been launched with a number of staff involved in maintaining the Site. GA also advised that a Twitter feed has also just recently been released.

A large investment of IT goods has been made with expected delivery in the New Year. The extensive use of new Netbooks and Desktops will enhance the pupil learning journey. Operations are moving swiftly in relation to having WiFi facilities within the school and with this in mind an "Appropriate Use Policy" is a current work in progress.

G Abbot presented to the group a detailed explanation on intentions as a way forward in relation to curriculum being offered to pupils over the forthcoming sessions. It was informed that our junior pupils are working within the guidelines of the Broad General Education Structure. This structure allows pupils to experience 8 curricular areas over a 3 year period and also enables the development of the relevant aptitudes to allow a smooth transition into S4. It was also reiterated to Group that at present, Bathgate Academy differs somewhat to other schools within the Authority as at this stage we still have S3 pupils being presented for examinations at Standard Grade Level (early presentation). As a progression over forthcoming years and the introduction of National 4 and National 5 exams in depth planning and consideration has been placed as to the examinations our pupils will be presented for. G Abbot delivered a timeline explaining in full the intentions for each year group as they progress through their senior phase. G Abbot also highlighted the intention to move away from a mass cohort presentation for examinations with the emphasis being placed on a more individualised presentation best suited to each pupils learning journey. It was reiterated to Group the need for a mindset change and that the amendments to the curriculum is an extensive work in progress that will have a positive end result for all pupils.

#### **5. AOB –**

As part of future Parent Council Meetings G Abbot suggested a faculty presentation to be delivered giving the Group an insight to course contents and other factors relating to that particular area. Further information to follow in due course.

G Abbot thanked F Kenny for her time and commitment in her position as Chair. The contribution given is very much appreciated by all parties.

#### **6. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 23 January 2013**