



Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25 September 2013

Present: G Abbot, I Meek, D Nelson, L Bell, S Weir, J Chesterton, J Baird, A Whyte, D MacDonald, K Renton, J Jeromson, Y Shaw, J Bryce, J Harkins, Cllr W Boyle, K Smillie, J Smillie

1. **Apologies:** Cllr H Cartmill, Cllr J McGinty, A Cingan,
2. **Welcome** – To commence meeting Chair welcomed new Parent Council members to Group.
3. **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 15th May 2013**

It was agreed that as a matter of course, all forthcoming Parent Council Minutes will be posted on the Bathgate Academy website for information.

Having noted that information had been omitted from previous Meeting Minutes apologies were passed accordingly.

Arrangements for Senior Phase Structure still ongoing with G Abbot confirming that a staff consultation to follow in due course with said structure coming in to force school session commencing August 2014.

4. Exam Results – G Abbot

G Abbot delivered a presentation to Parent Council giving an overview of Bathgate Academy examination results attained 2013. This evaluative information detailed performance levels of all Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher results and how the 2013 results compared to previous year's performance levels. G Abbot advised the position the Bathgate results had in relation to the results of comparator schools.

After in depth evaluation of results, G Abbot explained that slight differences between both male and female results were noted and how certain cohorts performed in comparison to others. Discussion ensued within Group as to the possible reasons for this.

It was explained to Parent Council that the information attained from examination results reports have an impact on the forthcoming Bathgate Academy Improvement Plan. Said results are used to establish areas for address and future development ensuring robust and sustainable teaching methods are in place to meet the requirements of individuals.

5. Improvement Plan – G Abbot

Arrangements for Improvement Plan ongoing with the notable contribution to date by all parties involved informed. As a priority, the Improvement Plan will deliver a progression focus in a number of areas. Matters relating to the Senior Phase Structure and the transition from the Broad General Education Structure to said Senior Phase will be a point for address.

It was explained that considerations to ensure a robust Quality Assurance and Self Evaluation Structure is an ongoing matter for address and will be incorporated to the forthcoming Improvement Plan.

Improvement Plan - Continued

Staff Workstream Groups now established with the elements and aims of said Groups clarified. Within Groups, staff will address a number of matters ranging from Raising Pupil Attainment, Positive Behaviour Review, Implementation of Learners Voice and Staff Training Opportunities. It was reiterated to Parent Council that a major aim of each Workstream Group is to ensure all staff have a valid contribution to future developments within the school and enhance the establishment of the Bathgate Academy Improvement Plan.

6. Staffing – G Abbot

It was advised that at present, there are two members of staff about to commence Maternity Leave with arrangements currently in place to establish appropriate cover.

All probationary teaching staff are working well and are proving to be valued members of the teaching staff team.

7. Fundraising – All

Parent Council agreed that as there is no parental fundraising focus at present consideration should be made for attention as a way forward. It was suggested that Group could speak to previous fund raising participants to establish advice on best practice. I Meek agreed to arrange a speaker to deliver information to Parent Council on successful fundraising activities.

8. Head Teacher Update – G Abbot

G Abbot confirmed that all new S1 pupils have settled into their new environment and are a welcome addition to the school.

All S3 pupils have adapted well to the new course framework. Group were reminded that courses undertaken in S3 have been adapted to meet the needs of the individual and offer wider scope for progression to the Senior Phase. It was advised that our current S3 pupils will not be presented for SQA examinations at the end of the S3 session and will progress to the new National 4 examinations.

After analysis of recent S4 pupil examination results and reviewing individual intentions as a way forward it has been decided to offer Assertive Mentoring to a cohort of current S5 pupils. This exercise will aim to offer ongoing observation and support from senior staff and offer the opportunity for peer conversations amongst pupils.

Bathgate Academy will be performing a production of Our House on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 October. Both staff and pupils have worked extremely hard and are thanked for their efforts. All Parent Council members welcomed to attend.

9. AOB – All

Parent Council members noted an issue with the quality of school Blazers supplied. Whilst establishing that this was indeed a minor issue it was agreed that M Laurie, Administration Assistant will contact the supplier and deliver an outcome in due course.

With an aim to reflect on learning, pupils are being encouraged to continually make use of Pupil Planners. It was emphasised that pupils are encouraged to take ownership of Planners and staff are taking every opportunity to embed this point.

Parent Council were reminded that a supply of Netbooks are available for pupil use within faculties to benefit pupils and the curriculum as a whole.

AOB - Continued

The use of pupil own devices highlighted for discussion. Whilst pupils are encouraged to use said devices as and when required as part of a lesson the insurance implication for use of personal devices was highlighted to Parent Council as a matter for consideration for parents.

G Abbot confirmed that the next Parent Council meeting will look to involve a curriculum area visit. This informative session will give further insight to the curriculum and the day to day operations within classrooms. This will be arranged with PTC staff before being implemented.

10. **Date of next Meeting** – Wednesday 20th November 2013