



## **Bathgate Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th September 2015**

**Present:** G Abbot, I Meek, J Thomson, M Gemmell, S McLauchlan, K Smillie, L Bell, A Templeton, M Primrose, K Rodger, D MacDonald, J Baird, J Harkins, Cllr J McGinty, Cllr H Cartmill

1. **Apologies:** Cllr J Dixon, E Stewart, Y Shaw
2. **Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

No matters arising from previous minutes.

### **3. Election of Office Bearers**

I Meek initially welcomed all parties to the Parent Council Meeting and commenced by confirming that session 2014/2015 had been another successful year at Bathgate Academy listing a variety of achievements and events as exemplars. The dedication of staff throughout the school was complimented.

In matters pertaining to office bearers I Meek offered to continue a further year as Chairperson. Discussions ensued as to the role of Depute Chairperson with S McLauchlan agreeing to take on this post.

### **4. Voluntary Parental Contributions**

Parent Council were informed that a total of £480 was collected via the Voluntary Parental Contribution Scheme last session. It was advised that a portion of said monies was utilised to purchase outfits for the school dance team. The payment of bus expenses for the girls football team cup final was also met by Parental Contributions.

Group considered possible avenues on how best to promote the Voluntary Contribution scheme and how said funds could be allocated as a way forward.

G Abbot Informed Parent Council of the imminent exercise to develop the grounds of Bathgate Academy. It was explained that whilst a recent "Grounds for Learning" funding bid was successful any additional funding the Parental Contribution Scheme could offer would assist in covering all expected outlays. Parent Council were further advised that an ongoing update on the development of the school grounds will be offered as and when available.

I Meek confirmed that as a next step action a draft letter promoting the Voluntary Parental Contribution will be prepared for Parent Council circulation with any relevant feedback welcomed. Once the content of said letter agreed a mailing will be distributed to parents.

## **5. 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations Update**

G Abbot advised that to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bathgate Academy on its current site a variety of activities are planned for pupils, staff and parental involvement.

The School Librarian is in the process of collating archive material. Said material will form the contents of a forthcoming art exhibition.

After continued discussion it was suggested that this exhibition could also be displayed at the Bathgate Partnership Centre for the local community to enjoy.

An information leaflet pertaining to the celebrations will be distributed in due course.

Parent Council members are welcomed to donate any relative photographs, documents that would enhance the celebration programme.

## **6. Parent Council Focus**

As a way forward Parent Council members are asked to consider involvement in specific aspects of Bathgate Academy.

Previous conversations between I Meek and G Abbot highlighted a number of considerations, in particular having a member of Parent Council being involved in the P7 transition programme. A further area for consideration was Parent Council members having an input on how we relay Tracking and Monitoring information to parents. Parent Council feedback on how to further enhance communication throughout the school was recognised as a matter for address.

Further suggestions on the level of input Parent Council can contribute was welcomed.

Parent Council involvement to be discussed again at future parent Council meetings.

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

G Abbot confirmed that as a cohort, S1 pupils have settled well into their new environment.

G Abbot also advised that school uniform is being well maintained throughout all year groups with Cllr Cartmill affirming this comment.

Cosmetic changes made throughout the school building during the summer break detailed to Parent Council for information.

An update of the various amendments to staffing at Bathgate Academy explained with the positive contribution being noted.

A recent “Freshers Fayre” offered staff the opportunity to promote to pupils the various school activities available for participation. It was advised that this informative event was well received.

A PE Passport Scheme has been introduced whereby pupils will contribute £10 which in turn will go towards accessing the variety of clubs made available within the PE faculty, contribute towards bus and entrance fee expenses.

With the Pupil Leadership team in place focus is now on Pupil Council with pupil voice and interaction being encouraged.

An in depth analysis of recent SQA examination results was delivered to Parent Council for information. To aid the understanding of said results G Abbot offered a definitive breakdown of pupil presentation numbers and percentage of passes attained.

G Abbot explained that results in certain subject areas highlighted matters for consideration. It was enforced that in order to achieve predicted results at senior level the attainment throughout all year groups should and will be an ongoing matter for address.

## 8. AOB

A question was raised as to the number of Advanced Highers available to pupils at Bathgate Academy this session. G Abbot confirmed that initially 10 Advanced Higher courses were available to pupils and after student selection 7 courses were initiated.

With regards to session 2016-17 no specifics can be offered at this stage as to the number of Advanced Higher courses that will be running. This number is dependent on pupil course selections and staff availability.

It was requested that if possible, parents could be offered a list of text books currently used within the school as part of the student curriculum. This will offer parents the opportunity to purchase copies for their child for self use.

G Abbot to consider and feedback to Parent Council accordingly.

In order to have an accurate perspective on pupil attainment it was suggested that parents be offered information on any concerns relating to assessment results as and when the concern arises.

G Abbot advised that in order to enhance communication, measures are being discussed to offer Principle Teachers the opportunity to use the Groupcall facility to message parents where appropriate.

## 9. Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015