



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wed 16th May 2018, Conference Room

Attendees:

Grant Abbot (HT), Amanda Heatherill (Minutes), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Jacqueline Harkins, Delyth MacDonald, Gillian Morgan, Michelle Primrose, Kirsty Roger, Hazel Young, Angela Grant, Cllr Harry Cartmill (in part)

Topics

1. Apologies

None received

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

- a) Instrumental Music update – Following discussions from last meeting, a paper will be resubmitted to the Council's Education Committee for consideration. Meantime a survey has been issued for parents to complete on their preferred option. The closing date was Friday 11th May. Pupils have also been involved giving their opinions.
- b) Newlands Dress Down Day – There will be a dress down day on Friday 1st June to raise funds for both Bathgate and Blackburn Galaday. This will happen this year but going forward this is still up for debate based upon the cost of the school day reports. Proceeds to be split by pupil ratio within the school.
- c) Parent Council Logo Competition – This will now be deferred to the September meeting
- d) Parent Involvement Matters School Video – Deferred to September meeting
- e) Senior Phase Progress Report update – Grant met with parents over the last few weeks. The school has a good understanding of what parents are looking for regarding reports. This is an ongoing process and further information will follow as the process continues.

3. Chair's feedback

- a) School Web Site - Parents are now starting to use the school's web link for making contact with the Parent Council Chairperson, with matters thus far being around the Music Instrumental Service.

- b) Recruitment - Derek also has attended recruitment training should the need arise within the school for any future recruitment of head teacher or deputy head teacher posts. Two parent council members normally are involved in the recruitment process.
- c) Local Parent Forum - Derek provided an update on the recent parent forum meeting held at St Mary's primary school which primarily focussed on the Instrumental Music Service provision.
- d) Benchmarking update – Derek hopes to attend Whitburn Academy Parent Council meeting to complete his benchmarking exercise of local parent council set ups.

4. Discussion Topic – Key Themes

Key themes set from last year were reviewed:

Working better Together – The school's app has made a difference and helps keep parent involved.

School Captains attendance at selected Parent Council meeting helps promote pupil representation and requirements.

Prefects can be of any age and the school looking at different ways in which prefects' time can be best utilised.

Merit and demerits were explained by Grant and how these work. The group discussed issues with senior pupils not being involved in the merit day award.

Home school communication has improved via a refreshed progress report, and use of the school app, and twitter account.

Parent Night set up are being reviewed to improve the experience across each of year groups.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) – Grant provided an explanation and type of work being carried out by such funding within the school.

Mental Health is something the school are looking into, counselling service will be available two days per week to begin with.

LGBT giving all pupils a voice.

Agreed next year's topic for Parent Council will be Health and wellbeing.

5. Head Teacher update

- a) Parent Evaluation Survey - Grant gave an update on the parent evaluation survey recently carried out within the school.
- b) Staffing & Parent Council Minutes – Grant provided an update on new school staffing, 4 new probationers will be joining the school in August and two retirements, one teacher and one science technician. Grant also advised Parent Council that the school would not be able to provide staff for minutes of future parent council meetings. Minutes to be taken by Parent Council attendees and can be rotational or by specific member request.
- c) School Improvement Plan – Grant seeking to set up a sub group to be involved in this exercise that can report back to parent council and will issue an invite to parents wishing to be involved.

6. AOCB

Parent Engagement – Derek asked Grant if a Parent Engagement statement could be added to the School's Parent Council web page and Grant undertook to upload this before the end of term.

7. Future Items

LGBT bronze award charter to be added to the future items listing for parent council consideration

8. Date of Next Meeting 2018/19

Agreed as:

Wed 12/09/2018, 6PM Conference Room

Wed 14/11/2018, 6PM Conference Room

Wed 16/01/2019, 6PM Conference Room

Wed 20/03/2019, 6PM Conference Room

Wed 15/05/2019, 6PM Conference Room

Derek Cornwall
Bathgate Academy
Parent Council Chair