



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wed 20th March 2019, Conference Room

Attendees:

Grant Abbot (HT), John Fleming (DHT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Cllr Harry Cartmill, Richmond Davies, John Findlay, Jacqueline Harkins, Tracey Ironside, Delyth MacDonald, Helen Neary, Michelle Primrose, Kirsty Roger, Hazel Young

Topics

1. Apologies

Received from Tracey Bredski (T), Susan Carroll, Sharon Robertson

2. Minutes & Matters arising

No matters arising and minutes were approved.

3. Chair's feedback

Derek stated that Connect's online workshop on (Q&A for Parent Councils) was being run on 26th March should anyone wish to sign in and participate, starting 12.15pm.

The next West Lothian Council local forum is being held on 22nd May 2019 at Inveralmond Community High School starting at 7pm.

4. School Captains Update

Grant stated that no issues were presented by Murray and Jessica who were revising for their exams and gave their apologies. Derek suggested a pupil led parent council survey to highlight how parent/carers read about school information. Derek tabled and discussed a survey form that would have a monetary reward based on the number of completed forms as a new initiative to glean information from parents and parent council members gave the go-ahead and made comments and the revised form to be circulated to pupils during May 2019. Forms are to be returned to the school office.

5. Discussion Topic – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding (HWS)

(a) Grant gave pc an update on the Call Push Rescue (CPR) being rolled out to 1st year pupils within the school and hoped all would receive training by end of May.

- (b) Connect are willing to arrange a workshop on helping to support your school for Health and Wellbeing which would be open to cluster schools. Derek to confirm with Connect (Ealoner Coner) for a future workshop to be arranged.

Grant made comment that Bathgate Academy did not have a defibrillator within the school sports area and Cllr Cartmill stated that he could possibly make arrangements for funding to be provided via Order of St Johns and Grant to send him a note so that he could raise this issue at a future meeting.

6. Head Teacher update

- (a) HMI School Experience feedback – Grant provided an update to pc members on the recent HMI school inspection experience which was exhaustive on teachers and pupils. The report was due out until mid-April but the inspection entailed managing inspectors, specific specifications, formal groups, informal conversations and triangulation. Derek to add to next pc agenda so that a fuller discussion can be made on HMI inspection findings.
- (b) Polar Academy update – Grant stated that the team leave a week on Tuesday for Greenland and thus far have raised £71k which was a tremendous achievement. The Polar Academy event and school journey is being made into a 4 part BBC documentary which is due to be release Sep/Oct this year. Parent Council expressed their congratulations to the school and the pupils involved on their hard work and looked forward to hearing about the experience at a future date.
- (c) Course Choice update – John Fleming gave a presentation on the new software model being adopted for course choices. This model is driven by pupil demand and helps promote a more positive destination and career path for the pupil. This encourages pupil ethos of ‘doing what you’re a good at’. PC thanked John for his presentation and working of the model which highlighted the complexity in determining pupil choices and teacher resource matching in the past. The new timetable is due to be released on 8th May. Parent Council members thanked John for his presentation and insight of the course choice model being utilised.

7. Parent Council Roller Banner update

Derek asked Grant to provide some photos of the school building that could be used on the display banner. Derek now thinking about creating two banners one for parent council functionality and one about Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding as this is also generic and could be used yearly. Derek to pass information onto Full Circle graphics and is hopeful of having some draft banners available to show at the start of next school term.

8. AOCB

Grant highlighted that supportive study sessions had been released on twitter.

9. Date of Next meeting

- Wednesday 15th May 2019, at 6pm Conference Room