



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wed 11th September 2019

Attendees:

Grant Abbot (HT), Grace Burns (DHT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Richmond Davies, Christine Downie, Gillian Greenwell, Jacqueline Harkins, Tracey Ironside, Cllr Charles Kennedy, Delyth MacDonald, Leigh Maybury, Debbie McCulloch, Helen Neary, Michelle Primrose, Kirsty Roger, Karen Smillie, Patricia Ure, Colin Ure, Hazel Young

Topics

1. Apologies

Received from Tracey Bredski (T), Cllr Harry Cartmill, John Findlay
Derek to convey to Cllr Cartmill on behalf of Parent Council, teachers and support staff our thoughts and support during his recovery process.

2. Minutes & Matters arising

Grant advised that a civic reception for Polar Academy team had been held at the Civic Centre, Livingston last Friday in recognition of their achievements.

Grant to arrange a date for local Councillors to visit the school to provide an insight into the work being undertaken.

No other matters arising and minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Feedback

Derek stated that the pupil led survey on parent/carer contact survey form had been completed and disappointingly only 61 submissions were received. From this however, the most popular at just over 62% of respondents used the School App, closely followed by the e-school newsletter (61%) with the school web page (49%) taking up third place. Twitter followed in fourth place at just over 38%. Derek to publish results on the school app and undertake another survey during the 2019/20 school year.

Derek explained the three roller banner designs that were produced which summarised the work of the parent council, the eight wellbeing indicators and the school's online payment system which will be displayed within the school.

Grant also advised that the school was piloting Instagram as another communication method

4. House Captains Update

Grant advised that there was a meeting tomorrow and that Captains would be allocated duties based upon their strengths.

5. Discussion Topics

(a) **Wellbeing Walkthrough** - Grace gave a presentation to Parent Council members on the Wellbeing curriculum being carried out within the school and this complimented the Wellbeing banner that was produced by Parent Council. This keeps a consistent approach as pupils, teachers and fellow professionals are all using the same language. Derek thanked Grace on behalf of the Parent Council for her presentation which demonstrated the wellbeing work being undertaken within the school.

(b) **PC Website refresh** - Derek asked that the Parent Council web site be refreshed this year and asked all parents to provide suggestions on how our web page could be improved. This was an opportunity for Parents to influence the shape and feel of the Parent Council web page and comments/suggestions will be taken at our January 2020 meeting to enable sufficient time to update the web page before the school year ending in June.

6. Head Teacher update

(a) **Staffing** – Grant advised that there were a national concern about Chemistry and CDT teacher shortages and would keep Parents advised on ongoing developments within the school.

(b) **Exam Results** – Grant provided an in depth presentation on the recent school's exam results and the impact on skills for work Nat 5's and SQA Nat 5's. Grant explained the exam results and school's performance for each category. However more work is required within the school covering skills for work as category results are combined which had a detrimental overall impact on the school's performance when just compared to SQA Nat 5's. Derek thanked Grant for his presentation which provided an early insight before the results are published later this year.

7. AOCB

(a) Derek advised that a petition requesting transport for Wester Inch pupils attending Bathgate Academy was received by West Lothian Council Executive Committee on 20th August and that this was deferred to the Development & Transport PDSP to advise Council at a later date. Cllr Kennedy advised that this was normal Council practise.

(b) Derek was able to establish that all year groups S1 through S6 were represented at our parent council meeting.

8. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday 13th November 2019, at 6pm Conference Room