



Bathgate Academy Parent Council

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 12th January 2022

Attendees:

Eileen Paxton (HT), Derek Cornwall (Chair), Cllr Harry Cartmill, Alison Currie, Richmond Davies, Jacqueline Denholm, Morag Dickie, Michelle Gapinski, Susan Griffin, Cllr Charles Kennedy, Margaret Hendry, Tracey Ironside, Denise MacCormack, Debbie McCulloch, Alison McDermott, Delyth McDonald, Carol McNicol, Hazel Mushet, Laura Spowart, Avril Stewart.

Topics

1. Apologies

Dorthe Davidson, Cllr John McGinty, Janice Earl-Summers,

2. Minutes & Matters arising

Derek completed the pdf file combinations on the parent council minutes web site.

The Health and Wellbeing Parents response has been scheduled for 9th March 2022 with Mrs Dandie.

The school app future events dates have now been populated.

Our Headteacher has been formally appointed following a competitive selection process.

No nominations were received for the appointment of Vice- Chair of our Parent Council.

Minutes were then approved.

3. Chair's Update

- a) **West Lothian Parent Forum update** - Derek advised that he had carried out a skills development video to promote the continuance of skills development across all schools in West Lothian. Some of the skills development Derek has seen within the workplace from our young people include Creativity, Problem Solving, Communication and Adaptability all of which will help our young people get the results they desire and stand them in good stead for future lifelong learning.

The next online meeting of the West Lothian Parent Forum is scheduled for 3rd February 2022 at 7pm and invites will go out to from Education Services to all parent council chairs.

- b) **National Parent Forum Scotland update** – Derek informed members of the current work themes being discussed at NPFS recently and these included the level of

staffing absences within the school's environment, the complexities around free bus travel application for up to 22-year-olds, the SQA exam guidance and mitigations and ventilation concerns within schools.

- c) **Regional Improvement Collaborative update** – The four councils of Falkirk, Stirling, Clackmannanshire, and West Lothian have recently produced a self-evaluation report

4. **Head Teacher update**

- a. **Return to School and Mitigations update** – Eileen gave a presentation to PC members and more information can be read on Appendix One.
- b. **Staffing update** – Eileen gave PC members and update on this, with Mrs Burns, our DHT has moved to Tynecastle High School. In the interim, Jemma Loudon from Inveralmond High School has taken up Mrs Burn's post as interim DHT. Mrs Wright, English Teacher moving to Linlithgow Academy.
- c. **Senior School Tracking, Prelims and Online Parents Evening** – Eileen provided an update on all these aspects via her presentation which can be viewed further in Appendix One.
- d. **School Uniform Review update**- Eileen advised members of a revised consultation timetable and further information can be viewed in Appendix One.

5. **School Uniform & Lateral Flow Testing– (Discussion Topic)**

Much of our discussion topic was taken up under agenda items A) and D) of the headteacher's update so this agenda item was now superfluous and passed.

6. **AOCB**

An issue was raised regarding pupils using toilets within the school being restricted and Eileen provided an update on the rationale and outlined the use of toilets procedure within the school. Eileen will also include this aspect in her weekly head teacher's update.

Derek raised an issue with the recent changes in the Fire Brigade national comments about nonattendance to alarms within the workplace and Eileen stated that there were no changes to the current process but would advise further at our next meeting.

Derek raised an issue about the absence of the school's December Newsletter and Eileen advised that the whole school calendar was currently being reviewed and this was part of that review.

7. **Date of Next meeting**

- Wednesday 9th March 2022, at 6pm (Online)

Appendix One

Head Teacher's update – Presentation

School Return and Mitigations Update

- Lateral flow testing
- Distancing
- Ventilation
- Masks
- Hand hygiene
- One way system
- Seating plans
- Vaccine programme

Senior School Tracking, Prelims and Online Parents Evening update

- Prelim Data recording currently
- 21st January – Reports go live
- 27th January – S4-S6 Parents Evening Virtually
- Parents Evening Booking System
- Opens Sunday 16 January @ 6pm
- Closes Sunday 23 January @ 6p,
- Instructions and invite letter with links emailed to parents
- Office staff will be available at school to contact on the evening until 7pm to support any technical issues with virtual meetings
- 6-minute windows with Teachers

- 11 March - Tracking
- 17 March – Parent’s Evening

School Uniform Review Update

- Discussion
- Feedback coming through via Parents form on HT Update
- Pupil Focus Groups
- Survey Created – 28 January distributed
- Pupils
- Staff
- Parents
- Cluster Primaries
- Business Partners
- 2 week window – Closes 11 February
- Review
- Consultation results shared
- Outcome approved by:
 - Bathgate Parliament
 - Parent Council
 - ELT
- Communication and visuals launch post Easter.

End of Presentation