



Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Online Parent Council Minutes 6 October 2021

Present:

Parent Council Members: Neil Bennett, Helena Richards, Diane Sinclair, Anna White, Jane Taylor, Morag Lamond, Wanda Jane Field, Katrina Reynolds, Tracey Wiczorek, Dina Delgado, Pauline Heron.

School: Bruce Robertson, Laura Warburton

Apologies: Katie Massie, Claire Stewart

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved from the last meeting and all matters arising covered within Rector's report.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair spoke about parent council recruitment and ways to encourage involvement. An article highlighting what the parent council do will be posted on the Heads Up.

Financial help towards outdoor benches and CPD costs for staff members was discussed. Agreement was reached to contribute towards the much-needed benches. There was a split view with regard to funding CPD, many felt that our funds should be invested in pupils or items which have a direct benefit for them. Why are SBC not funding?

The Chair spoke about the imposed BHS financial savings. He has liaised with Selkirk, Peebles, Earlston and Galashiels PCs. A Teams meeting is planned with a view to writing to SBC for explanation.

3. Treasurer's Report

The main account balance is £2,137.98, deductions this month were newspapers £164 and last day of term ice creams £250.50.

The 200 Club stands at £1,171.87, currently with 44 members.

4. Fundraising

The Treasurer spoke about the 200 Club. Details about the 200 Club will be placed on the Heads Up and all PC members were encouraged to recruit more members, with agreement of the Rector there is a plan to extend an invitation to local businesses to join the 200 Club. Details of a possible pop-up restaurant were mentioned and this will be discussed further at our next meeting when Claire Stewart is in attendance.

5. 200 Club

1 st Prize -	Cathy Anderson
2 nd Prize -	Nicky Anderson
3 rd Prize -	Melanie Short

6. Update from Student Council

Tyra Dewar and Drew Muir gave a valuable presentation to the PC. They highlighted some of the positive views of pupils including the impact of the new Rector, better teacher attitudes linked to good learning and the school being a tidier and safer place to be. Pupils feel respected by teachers, bullying has gone

down significantly. Prefects being situated throughout the school during breaks and lunchtimes has also helped.

Negative points were a lack of access to facilities during lunchtimes, missing maths's teachers and a lack of continuity of teachers and incidents of badly behaved pupils being disruptive in class and teachers shouting at the whole class.

They spoke well with pride and were thanked for their input. The Student Council were invited to update us in the future on their work.

6. Request for funding

Laura Warburton, the new Principal Teacher of Support for Learning gave a very enthusiastic request for funding. The school would benefit from a digital assessment application called LASS 11-15. This is a quick assessment which collects evidence, and teachers and classroom support assistants can be trained on it. It has the potential to benefit many people within the school.

The PC were keen to support the purchase of the app at £192 and additional funding for dyslexic specific resources (£80) and S1-S3 literacy interventions (£210.90) totalling £482.90.

This was agreed. Mrs Warburton would be keen to return in due course to share the impact of these resources.

There was a further request from Miss Currie for funds for additional books in a move to improve literacy across the school. A list of books, some second sets but many new texts was provided. The consensus was that this was a good idea, but costings would be required. The view was that this could be linked to future fundraising with the potential for sets of books to be sponsored. The PC will explore external funding and the possibility of applying for grants also.

7. Rector's Report

The Rector covered his report including the forthcoming Inspection which will be 3-5 Nov 21. He has met with the new Lead Inspector. Whilst good progress has been made, we need to be able to demonstrate that we are capable. There is less evidence of attainment with much remote learning, and we have taken time to bed in with better teaching and homework plans. Improvement will take time and we must manage parent's expectations. The Inspection Report letter will be made public.

The recent Progress Reports were discussed, and all target grades should have been discussed between students and teachers.

8. Matters raised

Upper School expectations were discussed, and the lack of support provided. There will be a future drop-in clinic, specific to career guidance, set up to assist pupils.

The S6 newspapers which are currently being funded by the PC are not being utilised by the pupils, this was highlighted by the pupils themselves. The newspaper order will be cancelled.

The role of the Parent Council was discussed. The Rector sees the PC as a partnership and an extension of the leadership team. It should have an influence on the curriculum and be able to ask the question 'How good is OUR school?' This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

10 November 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.