



# Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Online Parent Council Meeting - Minutes 8 September 2021

## **Present:**

**Parent Council Members:** Neil Bennett, Helena Richards, Diane Sinclair, Diane Turnbull, Anna White, Jane Taylor, Hazel Brydon, Morag Lamond, Morag Mazzoni, Devrim Turkey, Clare Stewart

**School:** Bruce Robertson

**Apologies:** Jim and Pauline Heron, Val Redpath, Wanda Jane Field, Katie Massie, Val Redpath, Katy Master

## **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 Annual Report**

The Chair's Annual Report was shared in advance. The Parent Council paid tribute and thanks to the outgoing Chair for his service over the past two years and to the Office Bearers who had also stepped down.

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

Due to Covid there has been very little activity in the account over the year from either fundraising or expenditure.

### ***Account balances were:***

- Main account September 2020 £3163.48, 200 Club account £1453.17
- Main account September 2021 £2552.48, 200 Club account £986.47

Invoices we are expecting - ice cream van for the last day of term (estimated £400?) + newspapers for pupils £164

Expenditure this year: Praise Postcards £1,761 and £50 for flowers for Avril Hamilton as a thank you.

We also agreed to support the STEM lunchtime/after school science project, but haven't had confirmation of costs for this.

## **3. Election of Office Bearers**

Office Bearers were elected to the following positions:

**Chair:** Neil Bennett

**Vice-Chair:** Jane Taylor

**Secretary:** Pauline Heron

**Treasurer:** Anna White

**Fundraising Officer (new position):** Clare Stewart

#### **4. 200 Club**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £16.40	Douglas Archibald
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £8.20	Katy master
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - £4.10	Cameron Mabon

Annual renewals who hadn't paid have been alerted and three have now paid so membership will increase for next months draw.

During the PC meeting it was discussed that more could be done to promote the 200 Club and fundraising overall, so a new position of Fundraising Officer was created and Clare Stewart kindly volunteered to step into this position for the coming year.

#### **5. Rector's Report**

As per the PC meeting pre-school summer holiday on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the Rector again spoke of budget cuts and the need for him to review his spending plan in line with new figures being issued by SBC. Savings of £71K are to be made by BHS. It was agreed that the new Office Bearers would follow up with other PCs throughout the region to see if these cuts are affecting other high schools.

##### **Other points discussed with the Rector included:**

- Covid-19 restrictions remain as they were last term
- The re-branding the title of 'Guidance Teacher' to 'Head of House'
- Staffing
- The Enhanced Provision classrooms were refurbished over the summer
- Curriculum. Drama has been introduced into the S1-3 curriculum and as a senior phase option. For the 2022-23 session, BHS is considering introducing new senior phase courses, including: Music Technology, Economics, Politics, Classics
- Mr Robertson asked the PC if it would be prepared to contribute towards new outdoor furniture
- Mr Robertson asked the PC if it would contribute to CPD for teachers as SBC has withheld funding
- Mr Robertson asked if parents would like to be involved with various Working Groups and Committees
- It's the 125th anniversary of Berwickshire High School, this year - Mr Robertson asked if parents would like to help organise the event
- The Head Team, Senior Prefect Team and Prefect Team are now in place. Presentation to PC planned for next month's meeting
- Mr Robertson shared a copy of the BHS 2020-21 Improvement Report and 2021-22 Improvement Plan

#### **8. Any other business. Matters raised to discuss**

A parent asked if students who are self-isolating, though not necessarily ill would be able to participate in classes using their iPads. Mr Robertson said that although it is possible, the logistics may be challenging, with classroom focus being affected.

A point was raised regards the lack of regular useful guidance about future careers from Ross Ryrie the Careers Advisor from Skills Development Scotland. It was asked if Mr Gracey and Mr Ryrie could work alongside each other in supporting the children to enter the workplace, college, university, etc.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

6 October 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.