



Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting - 2 November 2022

Present	Parents	Katrina Reynolds, Colin Gracey, Danielle Betts, Neil Bennett, Steph Leid, Victoria Tait, Mo Lamond, Helena Richards, Sebastian Schulz (via Teams), Wanda-Jane Field
	Staff	Bruce Robertson (Rector)
Apologies	Parents	Katy Master, Claire Stewart, Marianne Hodge, Amanda Stewart
	Staff	None

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report

NB updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

Task	Update	Actions
Mental Health (MH) Service provision in schools	<p>Postponed meeting held 21st Nov</p> <p>Productive meeting.</p> <p>SBC are working with the group</p> <p>2 new MH practitioners in the area.</p> <p>Christine Brown contacting higher education facilities to see if students need clinical practical hours</p> <p>Justin S and Leslie Munro happy to fast track research</p>	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen conversation to bring parents in on what they can do re: their child's MH More training for teachers, not to burden but to add to MH toolkits. <p>PCCs and Neil B in conversation</p> <p>SBC to commit to dates when research will be finalised</p>
Food in Schools	Susan Jarvis (SJ), the Vice Chair of Peebles PC, is waiting for a response to her recent enquiry from Debbie Hosie, the Head of Catering.	SJ chasing contact at SBC. Nothing more to report.
Music Tuition	Detailed data on what & how much music provision in which schools from contacts at SBC.	Await further action
Parent Council recruitment	<p>Recent promotion at the S1 parents evening resulted in some new members.</p> <p>PC will have representation at BHS concert 14th Dec for further promotion</p>	<p>January – create a rota for PC members present at events</p> <p>Colin Gracey volunteered to action</p>

Dyslexia Support in Schools "Identification of pupils"	<p>Initial meeting held. 16-20 parents, 4-5 staff. Considerable interest in this topic.</p> <p>Discussion re: East Lothian screening programme of all pupils P4. What is feasibility to screen all pupils in SBC at P4/P7?</p> <p>2 issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big variation in cluster primary school & (specific) teachers support • identify gaps in support and in short term how can improve support for pupils with existing BHS staff members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Transition for P7s ◦ Technology ◦ Emotional Support <p>SBC – documentation gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on teaching with paragraph on neurodiversity • SBC dyslexia policy Oct 2018 • SBC Dyslexia Booklet Jul 2020 • <p>Borders council introduces neurodiversity plans for schools Border Telegraph</p>	<p>Funding - NB investigating further with all PCCs</p> <p>Potential to direct / gain additional support / identify root causes from PCs at Primary Schools</p>
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3. Treasurer Report, Fundraising and 200 Club draw

Update	Actions	Action Owner
<p>Merchandise Ad went in school heads up, for stocking fillers School reception purchased 4x mugs</p>	<p>Advise on who they need to make the cheque payable to.</p>	<p>ML - CS</p>
<p>December 2022 Draw - 200 Club – 44 & 12 are back in, with 18 & 30 out</p>	<p>Progress continues towards setting up a Business 200 Club.</p>	
<p>The revised 200 club poster & online form have been revised.</p>	<p>Need these posters professionally printed for full business distribution in Jan, already have team for this on standby</p>	
	<p>Communications re: fundraising sub-committee will go out via Heads Up in the New Year.</p>	<p>CS</p>
	<p>Speak to Avril re: £150 for two PC awards given at awards ceremony</p>	<p>ML</p>

Main Account			
Date	Expenses	Income	Balance
02 Nov 22			£2829.80
	Sports Tops - £369.95		
30 Nov 22			£2459.85

		Merchandise (DPS Xmas Fair) - £25	
		Merchandise (School reception) - £20	

Club 200			
Date	Expenses		Income
02 Nov 22			£329.70
30 Nov 22			£539.70
07 Dec 22	1 st - 33 Anna White	16.80	42 in draw - £84
	2 nd - 13 Melanie Short	8.40	
	3 rd - 39 John McEwan	4.20	

4. Rector's Report

Bruce presented his report in person.

He advised that will only produce a written report if he is not going to be present at this meeting.

Task	Update	Actions
Staffing	<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew P has increased hours given to BHS. He is producing resources that non-math's teachers can use. Recent advert did not attract anyone. Advert going out for a new promoted post with closing date 09 Jan 23 for Principal teacher of numeracy; responsible for curriculum S1-3, align with maths at Primary schools, work with Head of Maths <p>Additional Learning Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advert closed 06 Dec 22 for additional learning support teacher (potential to pick up some S1-3 math's) 	BR will update at next meeting
Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check point assessments held end Oct A lot of work to design and mark but useful to have and provided information on strengths and weaknesses about attainment. There was some confusion over the date tracking reports were sent out - specifically S4. Some parents did not have for parents evening or were requesting from office. Derek Huffman - Specialist in pedagogy performing supported self-evaluation in departments on a rolling basis. Performed in Modern Studies. Chemistry next. SLT have been doing observed teaching and providing coaching and mentoring. 	BR to look into
Pedagogy Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 attendees – of which 50 went on tour of school Article by Emma Dickson in Berwickshire news Good feedback Use opportunity to recruit good staff to BHS 	
Learning Support	See points raised above: Chair Report: Dyslexia Support in Schools and Rector report: Staffing	

SBC Inspection update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectors onsite 1st Dec Thursday. • Impressed with what saw. School has been signed back over. • S4/S6 attainment data very strong. 	Letter to come to SLT
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5. Matters raised/AOB

- a) **Ambition Day** – Friday 9th Dec. S6s.
 Creating a “Culture of Ambition” brainstorming session and input from student council has led to this Ambition Day
 Potential to roll out to S5s in future years and also run earlier in the year but being mindful of careers evening in May.
 A set of workshops with emphasis around leaving school with life skills
 - Banking ([MyBnk Scotland](#)), mortgages, credit cards
 - SAAS
 - Employability skills – Anna White / Ruth
 - DIYW
 - Personal statements / CVs (Stacey and Sarah Mathieson from Fleming Homes)
 - Preparation for interview (RAF)
 - Mock Interviews
- b) **S5 opportunities for work experience** – if can fit into timetable. CG confirmed same opportunities are rolled out, e.g. BGH placements
- c) **UCAS University applications** - a point of concern was raised regards the school holding all UCAS university applications and submitting these together collectively in January. The concern was that this was to the disadvantage of BHS pupils, as early submissions would allow early offers and unconditional offers and in turn allow preparation for uni to start early, etc.

Action BR – Update - 'I raised the UCAS point from the meeting this morning and can confirm that applications are sent as and when they are ready - BHS doesn't hold on to them and send them in one go'.
- d) **Study leave** – BR confirmed that for pupils to come into school, it is on a request and bespoke basis
- e) **DUX medals** – article was in Berwickshire News but suggested that achievements are more celebrated – awards and recipients listed on school website with a link from Heads Up
- f) **SBC Respectful Relationships Policy** - VT and SS have been involved in update. Will meet again with Yvonne Wilson and Christine Brown in Jan 2023.
- g) **Amey relationship** – to discuss at next meeting
- h) **Outdoor announcement board** – to discuss at next meeting

6. DONM

Wednesday 18th January 2023, 7pm