



Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 18th January 2023

Present

Parents: Neil Bennett, Danielle Betts, Mike Carr, Colin Gracey, Mo Lamond, Katy Master, Helena Richards, Sebastian Schulz, Amanda Stewart, Clare Stewart, Victoria Tait

Staff: Bruce Robertson (Rector)

Apologies

Marianne Hodge, Katrina Reynolds

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting in December were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report

Neil updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

- Mental Health service provision in schools – no movement since the last meeting. The Chair of Selkirk PC has written to SBC asking why there has been no progress.
- Food in Schools – no progress since the last meeting.
- Music Tuition – no progress since the last meeting.
- Parent Council recruitment – there have been some new faces at Parent Council meetings lately, which is good to see. Both Katy Master and Helena Richards will be stepping down after April as their children will no longer be at school.
- Dyslexia Support – Kathy Huffman will be putting out a letter soon to those who attended the recent parent forum meeting on dyslexia. Bruce added that the school has invited Mo Brown from Dyslexia Scotland to attend the next INSET day, which is taking place in February.
- Pupil Mentoring – this is the idea that parents and people in the community outside the school to take on mentoring roles in particular career fields for students looking at their future career options and helping them look at the post-school routes available to them. It was agreed to park this topic for now and return to it at a later date.

3. Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

The main account balance is £2,455.85. The 200 Club account balance is £563.70.

There has been no movement in the account since the last meeting.

4. Fundraising and 200 Club draw

January 2023 200 Club Draw

To be discussed

Clare reported that she is ready to send out a 200 Club letter to local businesses. Neil offered to look at the best way to print it.

Clare brought up the idea of the 'pop-up restaurant' again, an ambitious project to run a restaurant in school for two nights or so as a major fundraising event. She has drawn up a proposal document for this. There was some discussion about who such a project would involve, the timescales and scale of such an event and a recognition that if it is to be done properly it will involve a lot of time and commitment from parent volunteers, staff and students. Bruce requested that Clare email him the proposal document so that he can discuss it with the SLT, before any decision is made about whether this is a project the school can commit to.

The idea of reviving the Burns Supper night for S6 pupils and parents as an alternative fundraising event was also discussed and it was agreed that this could be considered as a project for next year in the event that the pop-up restaurant idea is considered unsuitable.

5. Rector's Report

Staffing:

- Art teacher Louise Bell is leaving to relocate to Edinburgh. Heather Manson has been appointed as the new art teacher and is starting in February.
- Two new Support for Learning staff have been appointed – one full-time, one part-time. They will be joining over the next three weeks.
- There has been a limited interest in the PT Numeracy post, but interviews are taking place next week.
- Three Assistant Heads of Year have been appointed. These are development opportunities for staff. Abbie Gibson is supporting Ms Graham; Stephen Watson is supporting Ms Kennedy; Harry Meadows is supporting Young Carers.

Curriculum:

- Ten new courses will be on offer in next year's curriculum. Nat 5 Dance, NPAs in Exercise and Fitness (Level 6), Refereeing (Level 7), Practical Electronics (Level 5), Travel and Tourism (Level 5), Media Studies (Level 5), Applications of Maths (Level 6), Higher Administration and IT Higher, Higher Drama and Access Academy which targets disaffected students with poor school attendance and address numeracy, literacy and mental health.
- Peter Macklin will be meeting with selected groups of students over the coming days to 'road test' draft timetables to try to maximise options for all students in terms of columns.

Learning:

- Senior tracking reports will be issued soon. These will show the prelim result and the predicted grade for each subject. The predicted grade is different to the SQA estimated grade which goes to the SQA at the end of March and is the basis for appeals. It was suggested that a letter explaining the difference between these things should accompany the tracking reports.
- Conversations will be taking place with S3 pupils over the coming weeks who will get recommendations about what options are open and recommended to them ahead of their making choices for S4.

Other:

- The Ambition Day, which took place before Christmas, was well-received by students and businesses who attended. A S5 version is planned for later in the year.
- Supported evaluation for each subject within school continues, subject by subject.
- A meeting will be held next week to determine whether BHS will remain under monitoring by SBC, be re-inspected or be 'signed off'.

6. Matters raised/AOB

- a) Breakfast Club – the idea of introducing a Breakfast Club was discussed. Bruce confirmed that there has been some targeted provision for children who benefit from having breakfast when they get to school, based on need and delivered in a fairly low-key, discrete way. It was identified that having a general breakfast club that all children could use would be hampered by the fact that 84% of BHS pupils travel to school by bus, which makes it practically difficult.
- b) Amey – a query was raised about the relationship between the school and Amey, the building management company. The school's Business Manager is responsible for managing that relationship and any concerns that staff have about building management are raised with her in the first instance. Any concerns that parents have should also be brought to the Business Manager's attention.
- c) Outdoor Announcement Board – it was suggested that it would be good to have an outdoor announcement board, perhaps similar to the one at Eyemouth High School which could be used to promote events in school. Bruce agreed to discuss this with SLT.
- d) School Leavers – it was confirmed that S6 pupils will leave on 28th April. There are plans afoot to celebrate this with a 'Graduation Ceremony' at Marchmont House. More detail to follow.

7. DONM

Wednesday 1st March 2023