



Berwickshire High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 01 March 2023

Present

Parents: Neil Bennett, Katy Master, Helena Richards, Claire Stewart, Vicky Tait

Staff: Bruce Robertson (Rector)

Apologies

Danielle Betts, Colin Gracey, Mo Lamond, Amanda Stewart

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting in February were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report

Neil updated the Parent Council on the following matters:

- Mental Health service provision in schools – meeting took place on 28th February 2023 between Parent Council Chairs from Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Selkirk and Peebles High Schools and Lesley Munro and Justin Sinclair from SBC. Neil reported that it was a collaborative meeting which have hope that things might start to progress. The Kooth and Quarriers services are contracted until 2024, so nothing can change with regard to that provision until the contracts expire. But there is a commitment from SBC to start building more fruitful relationships with other institutions (NHS, Police, Social Services) to look at how multi-disciplinary working around young people's mental health can improve. On the subject of whether two mental health support professionals could be employed full time across the nine secondary schools, SBC have said that this idea has not been shelved and that Justin is hoping to come back to secondary school heads to talk more about this. Justin and Lesley have committed to come back with proposals by 27th March. Bruce added that although the Quarriers service is up and running across the Borders, there is currently no Quarriers worker at BHS nor is there a school nurse. This is a matter of concern which the school is trying to resolve.
- Food in Schools – no progress on this since the last meeting.
- Music Tuition – Bruce will check in Cameron Mabon about this.
- Dyslexia Support in Schools – Neil reported that he had visited Kelso High School last week to hear a presentation from their learning support lead which was interesting. A Dyslexia support group for parents supported by Kathy Huffman has now been established in school. Bruce outlined some responses to issues identified by the group:
 - The school continues to offer a wide range of courses appropriate to different learning styles and needs
 - It will always be necessary with some courses for students to sit written examinations, so the school will continue to ensure that students with diagnosed dyslexia get the support they need to access and undertake this type of assessment
 - The last INSET day included input from Mo Brown of Dyslexia Scotland who was well received
 - Early identification of dyslexia in primary schools is very important and the school will continue to work with its cluster primaries to address this issue
 - The school recognises that teachers need to be aware of which students have diagnosed dyslexia and what support they need.

3. Treasurer's Report

The main account balance is £2334.85

The 200 Club account balance is £737.30

4. Fundraising and 200 Club draw

In addition to the February and March draws, the January draw had to be redone, because it was found afterwards that winning numbers had not paid their subs.

January 2023

1st – 46

2nd – 64

3rd – 41

February 2023

1st – 38

2nd – 17

3rd – 39

March 2023

1st – 6

2nd – 36

3rd – 53

Claire reported that the Business 200 Club letter is ready to go and will be sent out asap. The Pop-up Restaurant proposal has been sent to Bruce. He has not had time to consider it yet – this will be done soon. The Parent Council is hoping to support some upcoming sports events taking place at BHS with refreshment stalls which may also raise a bit of money: hockey festival on 17th March and Rugby festival on 24th March. Volunteers should please let Neil or Claire know.

5. Rector's Report

- There have been some successful events lately: the Addams Family senior school show, the YPI finals, a trip to Westminster and some Parents Evenings.
- The school has welcomed a new art teacher and two support for learning staff.
- There is an advert out for a permanent maths teacher and a 0.6 maths teacher.
- Carol Keneally has been appointed PT Numeracy. She will be supporting the PT Mathematics but focussing on S1-3 maths.
- Karen Thomson has been appointed Headteacher of Arbroath High School. This means that she will not be returning to her Depute Rector post. Emma Dickson has consequently been appointed permanently as Depute Rector and in turn Rebecca Graham has been confirmed in permanent post as a Guidance Teacher (currently head of S1, S2 and S6).
- Results from preliminary examinations are looking like they are going to be good.
- HMI has now fully disengaged from BHS following a meeting with SBC, as progress within the school has been so positive.

6. Matters raised/AOB

- a) **PSE** – a query was raised about PSE teaching and content. Bruce confirmed that the school has an Integrated Health and Well-being programme. Its content is detailed on the school website and includes relationship, sex education, drugs and alcohol use and abuse.
- b) **S6 Leavers Day** – 21st April at Marchmont House

7. DONM

Wednesday 19th April 2023