

Balhousie Parent Council,
3pm on the 21st February 2020,
Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- In attendance: Fiona Whittet (FW) Head Teacher; Heather Tough (HT), Chair; Lynn Gibson (LG), Treasurer; Neschka Martin (NM), Secretary; Lisa Buist (LB), Eilidh Stirling (ES)
- Apologies were received from Danielle Shepherd.

2. Previous minutes

- The previous minutes were approved by LS and ES

3. Chairman Report:

- HT welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- We are still waiting for RBS to complete adding signatories to the Parent Council account. HT is contacting them regularly for updates.
- Once we have access to the account, LS to prepare the account for audit.
- We have drawn up a constitution for the Parent Council. A copy was tabled for approval and HT will email a copy to all members of the Parent Council.
- Recruitment for the new Head Teacher for North Muirton Primary School has been delayed. FW stated that the first round of interviews were today so second round should be soon (Post meeting – second round interviews are on 9th March. A Parent Council representative from BPS is sought to sit on the interview panel)

4. Head Teacher Report:

- At this stage, the expected enrolment for next academic year (2020/21) is similar to 2019/20 There will be 26 primary 7s leaving this year which will have a reasonable impact on the school role but there is no reason to believe there will be any less than the current 5 classes next academic year.
- Nursery hours are to change, 1140 hours for strong start 2 years olds and 3-5 year olds, 5 days a week from 9am to 3pm. There do not appear to be many enrolling, It is unclear why this is the case – it was suggested that it could either be that people are unaware that school nurseries do not have a catchment area, or it could be due to the school's scheduled closure in 2022. Applications for nursery have to be done online. LB and ES suggested that this is not very clear. FW will make sure all the information and a link/the form are put on the school app/website.
- There are new plans for later in the year for bringing families together to work together. The School will launch a 'wider achievement' project soon, where pupils will get house points/badges for achievements completed at home.
- NM to provide contact details to FW for a student chemist to come to the school and give demonstrations of (safe) chemistry experiments – will tie into the STEM learning in the school..

- ES spoke of problems with Seesaw- and not being able to get rid of old messages. She said she contacted Seesaw direct about this and this is an issue they are currently looking into with Seesaw.
- School Fund: this contains £860 including some money raised around Christmas time through Carol singing and other events.
- £100 to be donated to Alzheimer's/ Dementia – The Courier will be coming to the school to photograph the handover of the cheque.
- FW has met with the teachers to identify important resources for the classrooms to use the money for – they have suggested items such as listening centres, table top games, audio books, pastel crayons for art, scissors and dictionaries

5. Treasurer's Reports/ Finance Report:

- It was agreed that it would be appropriate to use Parent Council funds for gifts for the p7s leaving, such as calculators.
- The Parent Council funds that were stolen have been recovered through insurance. The funds will be spent on something that all pupils in the school will benefit from.
- It was agreed it would be nice to ask the pupils of Balhousie how they would like the funds to be spent.
- Devolved School Management (DSM) budget consists of £1294 which will be spent by the end of the school financial year
- The school tries to always keep the costs of school trips as low as possible. It helps to use minibuses for trips where possible.

6. Breakfast club

- Breakfast club information re enrolment for parents to be added to website and app to make it easier to access.

7. Extra-curricular Health and well-being

- NM put forward the benefits of yoga for helping manage stress, anxiety and anger in children and young people. LB to provide FW with contact details of a yoga specialist who may be able to provide taster sessions in school.

8. Parent Council Constitution

- Emailed by Heather 24/02/19 -Includes, aims, objectives, parent memberships, co-opted members, staff members, headteacher, office bearers and clerks, quorum, accountability, finance, voting, the constitution.

9. Date of fundraising meeting

- Have agreed to start a what's app group

10. Teachers car park, Child safety before and after school:

- Parents parking in teachers car parks – names have been noted. The staff car park is not for parental parking for pupil safety reasons.
- Parents are parking on yellow lines and give abuse to traffic officers.
- Children are being forced to walk in the road outside the school gates due to parents standing outside and blocking the pavement. It was also mentioned that children's road safety awareness could be a lot better.
- Parking in Asda car park will be encouraged to try to keep the road clear at pick up and drop off.

11. Next Meeting

- 14 May 2020

