

MINUTES
BUCKSBURN ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
Wednesday 18th January 2018 @1900

Present: Lorraine Simpson, Denise Poole, Sheree Pottinger, Steph Jackman, Lynn Murray, Malcolm Mackay, Russell Ritchie, Lateef Akaiyi, Graham Blance, Fraser McLachlan, Dave Pottinger, Sarah Christie

Apologies: Susan Pirie, Wendy Brechin, Frances Wood, Mike Paul (New HT)

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from November were approved by Sarah Christie and seconded by Sheree Pottinger.

Head Teachers Report

Appointment of New HT – Graham confirmed that following the interviews on 30th November that Mike Paul has been appointed as the HT of Bucksburn Academy. He will start in his new role on Tuesday 13th February and will use those 2 in-service days as handover time with Graham before welcoming the pupils back on Thursday 15th.

Parental Engagement – Bucksburn Academy are one of the leading city schools actively trying to engage with parents over the education of their children and how best to support their development from home. The first Parental Engagement evening is taking place this month for parents of S4 pupils with an evening of timetabled lessons with presentations from teachers about the curriculum for that subject and ideas to pass on to parents for supporting their child. The school will be seeking feedback on the night to gauge its success and will hope to run similar events for parents of other year groups as the strategy unrolls.

Positive Relations Policy – The school is looking at positive relations in many aspects including antibullying and expectations of pupil behavior. The pupil group Respect for All have been focusing on fairness and equality for everyone and the development of a school ethos on this matter. PTs and Pupil Support have organised a number of debates, speakers and activities to encourage pupils to think about these issues. This will continue into learning about the development of the rights of young people.

ASN Update - ASN wing had an open afternoon, which was hugely successful. Feedback based on SHENNARI rating gave them extremely good results in all aspects. Further information and specific results for each category are included in the attached ppt.

Weather – The school took a decision on 29th November to open the school at a delayed time on 30th November due to severe weather warnings. Making this decision in advance was well received by parents, staff and pupils and allowed for contingency planning.

Staffing – The school is currently looking for a Design and Technology teacher and has adverts closing on Sunday for a Physics / Chemistry teacher and a Maths teacher. Confidence is high that these positions can be filled soon. In terms of the city wide staffing crisis, Bucksburn is well positioned with very few vacancies but confirms they are always actively looking for teachers and other short term solutions to staff shortages.

Office Bearers

Dave discussed the situation with regards to the running of the Parent Council and the lack of office bearers and people prepared to take on the responsibilities required for the committee to run effectively and support the school. The following roles are vacant: Secretary & Chair.

Some discussion was had over the breakdown of the roles.

Sarah Christie volunteered to become Secretary with responsibility for Agendas, Minutes and the PC email account.

Lorraine Simpson volunteered to take on the role of Careers Fair Organiser.

With Lorraine taking on the Careers Fair, Dave will step up to the Chair role.

Support was offered to assist with roles from other PC members.

It was agreed that as a PC we need to promote the joining of the committee to other parents and increase the numbers on the committee to reduce the burden on particular individuals.

Dave then went on to advise that he will be leaving the Parent Council at the end of this session.

Careers Fair

The PC careers fair will be held on 20th February between 1800 and 2100. The majority of speakers and stall holders have confirmed and with 5 weeks to go we are in a healthy position.

A meeting was held prior to this PC meeting with a sub committee for the careers fair and actions will be taken in the following week to secure additional speakers and stalls. Graham Blance also offered to organise the stall for teaching.

FUNraisers Update

The balance of the bank account is currently £11,763 with around £3000 due for payment for the minibus. Around £7000 was raised at the Christmas fair with a slightly lower footfall than in previous years.

It was suggested that other times are considered as a Saturday morning is often over committed with activities already. Other schools have held events in the twilight period on a weekday with equal or more success. This will be considered at forthcoming meetings.

Some discussion was had about the use of the money in the account. Could some of that money be used to support the reinstatement of an activities week for pupils? Graham suggested that rather than looking specifically at the ACT week that they would prefer to look at overall wider experiences that could provide continuity every year. Suggestions were made to investigate sponsorship opportunities with Prime Four and other local companies to ask if they would consider sponsoring the ACT week. A "business" plan would be needed from the school to take this further.

Treasurers Report

Denise confirmed that the Parent Council balance is £666.65 and the committee suggested this money could be used to pay for refreshments at the Careers Fair as well as the end of year Awards Ceremony. It should be noted that the grant offered to PC's by the council has been significantly reduced this year.

AOB

Lorraine queried the logistics of some prelims – school to investigate end times of different exams being sat in the same room to minimize disruption to pupils.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 25th April @1900