

Meeting: Parent Council Meeting 5th October 2016

Present: S Dougan, J Cochrane, L Chuchla, L Henderson, R Provan, J McIntyre, C Dingwall, K Murray, M Weir, R Mabon, C McMillan, T Smith, G McNally, L Shanks, S Smith, L McGillivray, S Graham, T Saunders, A Finlay, J Hyslop, L Noble, J Dempsy, H McGlashan, N McGlashan, C Morrison, and R Latimer.

Apologies: A Cross, J MacWhirter, L Barkhouse, M Blaney, C Manning, L Hunt.

Item	Information / Decision	Action
Treasurer's Report	The balance is now £83.07, no movements since the last meeting.	
Chairpersons Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Cochrane asked if minutes of May's meeting could be adopted. L Shanks Proposed and S Smith seconded. • Update on bins between The Bog and Academy. Number increased from 3 to 4. No further complaints of litter to-date. • Appeal for someone to take up Fundraising Officer position. There are a few grants that we could tap into and we require a co-ordinator. • J Cochrane has applied for £1000 from the Police Mutual's Force for Good initiative for Cheerleading Mats. • J Cochrane asked staff how they felt Parent Council could help the school. R Latimer commented that he felt it was a useful body to help raise awareness of parental concerns within the school, and communicate discussions/outcomes with the wider parent body. He also felt meetings were a platform for the discussion of new initiatives whether they came from staff, pupils, or parents. 	Email received from Police Mutual since meeting. Funding request unsuccessful.
Headteacher's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on staffing – Final Principal Teacher being appointed on Monday for Technologies; recommendation for Mr Scott who has been Acting Principal Teacher at Larbert High School. Mr Dowd is moving on, and an advert has been published for a new permanent Maths Teacher. There is a shortage of Maths supply teachers. However there is a contingency position if there is not a successful candidate. • S Dougan discussed the P7 pupils Information Evening which was recently held for Parents/Carers. Great buzz and lots of positivity. • Bo'ness Academy held the Learning to Achieve Awards, this was attended by the Director of Education and Falkirk Council Councillors. Pupils from the school performed at the event. Bo'ness Academy had a number of nominations put forward. Mr MacWhirter and the Community Café/ICT were commended. The Star Performer from the Academy went to Abbie McCallum. Thanks to C Morrison and R Provan for being involved in arranging the awards. • Positive Destination Stats – 94% of pupils have moved on to positive destinations. In real terms 99 pupils left, of those 6 are not currently recorded as being in a positive destination. S Dougan clarified what positive 	

	<p>destinations mean: e.g. work, studying, apprenticeship, being supported in other way by school/local authority. There will be a follow up in 6 months to ascertain continued destinations of pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed SSTA union matters. • Best of Bo'ness magazine to be issued after the October break. 	
<p>Staff Introduction Mr Latimer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R Latimer thanked everyone for being invited to the meeting. He said it had been a pleasure to join the school, and he has been made to feel really welcome by pupils and parents. He went on to describe his remit as Pastoral Leader of Forth House (approx.. 180 pupils). He described what this entails. • R Latimer is also the Communication Co-ordinator at Bo'ness Academy. He presented a slide show on "Communication & How We Support Our Pupils". This described the Pastoral Head role, different avenues of communication within the school (Twitter, new website, etc) and questions for discussion around how we can support our pupils. He stressed how important it is to the school to build community links and how much potential there is in Bo'ness Academy. • He discussed the 1st year settling in interviews that parents were invited to, and the flexible pathways that all pupils can take. 1st year parents in attendance gave extremely good feedback re these interviews; they were also impressed at how quickly the meetings were set up. Comments received around how invaluable it has proven to be and how good it has been to put a face to the names. S Dougan said that the Pastoral Heads also found it invaluable and gained useful knowledge and information about pupils. J Cochrane added that she wanted to bring to the attention of the other parents that this is a new thing for the 1st years. S Dougan and R Latimer also stated that interviews would be rolled out to 2nd and 3rd years by around March 2017. • R Latimer discussed links with the Community Café and how he was blown away by the number of people attending and the success of the Café. • He asked for input on how parents think we could better support our pupils and how we can take the feedback forward; as well as asking how we can work together to support every child. • Informed parents about the Health and Wellbeing Programme. Spoke about possibility of an event based on Health & Wellbeing, however we would need to try to get more people from the community involved in this as well. • Spoke about getting the new website up and running in the very near future. Looking to improve on communication, however S Dougan stated that there is a fine line between information overload so we don't want to bombard parents with too much information. It is important to get the right balance. • Idea from parent about streaming live on the website, or video recording of specific information. S Dougan said we could look at linking the school's YouTube channel with the school's new website. Discussed that it may be good to see things visually. • Spoke about inviting parents for option meetings regarding picking subjects as is very important for pupils to choose the right path they want to go down. • R Latimer gave information on how pupils can get in contact with him. R Provan also commented that a pupil can approach any member of staff, and staff will be able to contact Mr Latimer or the Pastoral Team member. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Morrison commented that what we need by way of communication from the Parent Council is a sounding-board as representatives of the parents. Ideally PC members need to go and speak to other parents in the community, so that information is fed back to the wider community. • R Latimer discussed leading the School Improvement Group on communication. He gave information on the new school website and asked how we can get more parents involved going forward for new school events. • J McIntyre informed us that more homework will go on the new website. • R Latimer showed a draft form of Dates for your Diary: a new leaflet that will inform parents of any important forthcoming dates. 	
Staff Introduction Ms Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C Morrison gave a description of her role in the school as Resource Manager and what that entails. She deals with finance, personnel, the office, support staff, building maintenance (liaising with Class '98, MITIE etc) and working with catering staff. Said most of Bo'ness Academy's support staff/non-teaching staff live in the community, therefore they take a lot of pride in the community and this is why there are such high standards invested by staff in the school. • In relation to promoting Parent Council C Morrison requested parent volunteers to help update/redesign PC pop-up banner to display at school events. C McMillan volunteered and will discuss time with C Morrison. 	
AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More discussion around the loss of a Maths Teacher and lack of supply teachers in this subject. S Dougan indicated that Mr Provan may return temporarily to do 2 days supply in maths a week. Support staff are Maths qualified. • S Dougan advised would like David Killin to attend next meeting to outline role of Pupil Support. 	

Next meeting 7 pm on Wednesday 16th November in Bo'ness Academy Library.