

Meeting of Bellshill Academy Parent Council held on Monday, 13 January 2014

Present: Mrs A Munro (Head Teacher), Mr D. Jamieson (Chairperson), Mrs B Shilliday (Parent Member), Mrs C Gowrie (Parent Member), Mr D Forwell (Parent), Mr S Foye (Parent Member), Mrs E Gowrie (Parent Member), Mrs C Hendry (Parent Member), Mrs J Goddard (Parent Member), Mrs L Gardiner (Parent Member), Ms L Gillen (Parent Member), Mr G Webb and Mrs L Lennox (Teacher Representatives), Mrs J. Ward (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies: Mrs Boslem, Mrs Morton, Mr Moore

Mr Jamieson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back after the Christmas break.

Previous Minutes

The previous minutes had been circulated, read and approved accordingly.

Matters Arising

The Bag Pack which had been held in November for school funds had raised over £800. Mr Jamieson offered his thanks to all who had helped out on the day and to the pupils who came along to pack bags.

Mr Jamieson updated the meeting on the latest information regarding the Sports facility. £10,000 had been given to Active Bellshill to conduct a feasibility study and public consultation. A meeting was arranged for the coming Wednesday when architect drawings would be finalised. A business proposal would be gathered together and then presented to the LAP in March. Mr Jamieson would update the parent council at the next meeting.

Finance Update

As advised earlier in the meeting, the sum raised at the bag pack was discussed on what it was to be used for. It was agreed to ask the pupils via the pupil council as Mrs Munro had already been speaking with them and they were keen for the social area, known as the blue room, to be upgraded with new tables and seating which were easier to clean. It was agreed to ask them to look at this along with Mr Jamieson who would speak to his contact in the Prison Service, who had supplied the bike rack, and also speak to someone in Restorative Justice to see if they could assist.

Trust Fund

The multi gym proposal was still ongoing and Mrs Munro is busy speaking to various people on how best to push this forward. She will update the parent council at the next meeting.

Grant Application

The parent council agreed to apply for a further grant from the council to help support the pupils in the upgrade of the social area. Mrs Ward, along with Mr Jamieson and Mrs Munro will complete the application form and send off prior to the next allocation meeting in March.

Head Teacher Report

Mrs Munro gave a detailed report on Primary 7 numbers coming up to the Academy in August 2014. Out of 120 pupils from the 3 associated primaries 110 pupils would be attending which is 92% of the total figure. Mrs Munro thanked the parent council for all their support at the local primaries which had resulted in the increase in numbers next session.

Of the current S4 pupils, 98 have indicated that they will return for a 5th year and in the current S5 there are at the moment 70 possibly returning. However this figure will probably change once pupils receive their SQA results and / or job offers.

Mrs Munro then moved on to the Efficiency Savings and how this was going to impact on the school over the next 3 years.

Management posts were being restructured which would mean a cut in management points of 93. Mrs Munro will be consulting with staff shortly along with union representatives in the school. There would also be a cut in teacher numbers by 1 FTE with effect from January 2015.

The introduction of the 33 period week in August was then discussed. Mrs Munro explained how this would operate in the Academy. The proposal had been issued to all parents and staff and the closing date for consultation was today (January 13th). After some discussion the parent council agreed that they supported the extra period being on a Wednesday and that lunchtimes were the same each day. Also agreed that the start time should stay at 9.00am. The Parent Council then fully endorsed the proposed 33 period week.

Discussion took place on how the extra period each week would be used and Mrs Munro will now take this back to the senior management team for further discussion.

The Parent Council also agreed to Mrs Munro sending out a further letter to S1 parents asking for their continued support in keeping the pupils in school during lunchtime for their own safety.

AOCB

Mr Jamieson referred to a recent article in the Bellshill Speaker regarding school 'league tables' in which the Academy had been shown unfairly. Mrs Munro was aware of this and was in the process of arranging a 'showcase' article along with the Press office on the Pathfinder Project.

The meeting then closed with the date for the next meeting been arranged for Monday February 24 at 6.30pm.