

Annual General Meeting of Bellshill Academy Parent Council held on Monday, 2 June 2014

Present: Mrs A Munro (Head Teacher), Mr D. Jamieson (Chairperson), Mrs B Shilliday (Parent Member), Mrs C Gowrie (Parent Member), Mr I Ferguson (Parent), Mr D Forwell (Parent Member), Mrs J Ford (Co-opted Member), Mrs J. Ward (Clerk to the Council).

Bellshill Academy parent council 2/6/14

Present – D Jamieson A Munro S Foye L Gardiner C Gowrie C Hendry J Goodard J Ford (part meeting)

Apologies – D Forwell E Gowrie G Webb L Lennox A Boslem A Moore J Ward.

Mr Jamieson opened the meeting by giving a report on the school grounds the ABC group had met with NLC and had been accepted into a pilot project with regards to Asset Transfer. However it seems that momentum has stalled slightly and as such fresh impetus was needed to get the group back on track. There was a proposal that Bellshill Athletic should approach NLC and ask for the playing fields to be turned over to them so that this could kick start the move to full possession.

The parent council agreed that if there was no movement by August/September then we would ask NLC to come to a meeting so that we can press them for some investment in our playing fields.

Mrs Munro thanked Mr Foye and Mr Jamieson for taking part in a video that will be used to help launch the Pathfinder initiative by the Scottish Government. Further praise had been received by the school from the cabinet secretary for education after his visit. Funding had been put in place to refurbish the science labs it is hoped that this work will be started soon.

The changes to the house names was complete with Arran, Iona and Lewis being the preferred options. It is hoped that the computer suites can have their names changed to the old house names this was welcomed by the parents.

The new timetable will start on the 9th of June with the 33 period week this will give a bit of time to settle prior to the new term in August. It was proposed the new intake of S1 pupils will be asked to remain in school during the lunch interval when the term starts.

There will be information available to S2 parents regarding the choices open to pupils and extra support will be offered when the chance to choose subjects comes up. So far the process seems to be working and there have been no complaints from parents.

Feedback from the exams was that pupils had been well prepared for all exams so we can only wait until the results are out.

As well as the core subjects there are a number of Award classes for next term these will be available to senior pupils. The interviews for roles of responsibility had taken place

with school captains vice captains and prefects being chosen House captains will be informed next week. A total of 30 names were put forward for the roles.

June Ford reported that between 50 and 60 names had been received for the summer school and funding had been awarded the trust will support this also. It is hoped that all seniors attending will be start/continue on the youth leadership award for this year some of pupils had recorded in excess of 200 volunteer hours.

The focus west group had come back with tracking which indicated the numbers of pupils moving to higher and further education had risen from 12% in 2009 to 34% in 2013. Mrs Munro and parents welcomed this and we should look to continue this by publicising all of the awards that attracted UCAS points and impressing on everyone that social skills are as important to gaining entry as academic skills. A number of S3 pupils had attended an applicant's day at Strathclyde.

The 3 house groups will have a management team of a depute and a pupil support teacher.

Arran – (Formally Douglas and Woodhall) Mr Webb Mrs Casment

Lewis – (Formally Orbiston) Mr Johnson Mrs MacRoberts

Iona - (formally Milnwood) Mrs McGraw/Mrs Boslam Mr Nicholson

Mrs Boslam was congratulated on her Deputies post covering for Mrs McGraw who is on maternity Leave.

Having taken part in the Pathfinder project it was agreed that we as a school should be looking at how we role this programme out it was agreed that S4 would be our test year an information evening for parents will be held when school returns Yvonne McBean has been tasked with undertaking this copies of the study guide will given out and help made available to parents on the night so that any questions can be answered.

Following on from this a sub group will be formed with a view to looking at how we can use this project across the board or to adapt it in such away as it is manageable for a larger cohort. Parents and teaching staff will be asked to take part in this project. As it stands we were concerned that a larger group will increase work load for teaching staff but if there could be some way of using a self assessment tool and combining this with tutor time then we may have a starting position.

The school web site is due to be up and running soon and will be used to post times and dates of all supported study classes parents will be encouraged to use the web site for this information as there are occasions when this information never leaves the school bag.

A change to the way Tracking will be reported will be implemented next term with extra tracking and reports being sent out it is hoped that this and the other measures that we are looking at will mean that a more detailed and comprehensive reporting system will be in place.

Mr Jamieson reported that an end of term meeting for the national 4/5 will take place at St Andr5ews high Coatbridge and that if any of the S4 parents wanted attend could they reply direct to Jim Beers at Kildonan Street.

Mrs Ward will be asked to put dates for next sessions meeting in the diary and to send them round to all members.

Mr Jamieson thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and attendance at the parent council over the year and closed then meeting at 2005hrs