

Meeting of Bellshill Academy Parent Council held on Monday, 25 August 2014

Present: Mrs A Munro(Head Teacher), Mr D. Jamieson (Chairperson), Mrs C Gowrie (Parent Member), Mr D Forwell (Treasurer), Mr S Foye (Parent Member), Mrs L Gardiner (Parent Member), Mrs E Gowrie (Parent Member), Mrs C Hendry (Parent Member), Mrs J Goddard (Parent member), Mrs L Marsh (Parent Member), Mr A Moore (Teacher Representative), Mr G Webb (Teacher Representative), Mrs L Lennox (Teacher Representative), Mrs J. Ward (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies: Mrs J Ford

Mr Jamieson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back to the new session and also a warm welcome to our new member, Mrs Marsh.

Previous Minutes

These had been circulated and read and were now approved.

Finance Report

Mr Forwell stated that he now had the forms from the bank to update the bank signatories for the parent council bank account. It was agreed that Mr Forwell, Mr Webb, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Hendry would sign on the account. Only 2 signatures from 4 would be required. Arrangements to be made to contact bank with new names.

Trust Update

Mrs Munro and Mr Jamieson gave an update from the Trust. The seniors study room had been refurbished with new tables and chairs and had also been painted over the summer break. Tables for the 'blue' room had also been ordered and are awaiting delivery of these. The Summer School had been given funds to pay for the Fordell Firs trip.

Some seniors were attending a Lord Advocate event at Tulliallan College which included an overnight stay. The cost was £55 with the students interested in attending paying £30 and the Trust would pay the difference.

Correspondence

The annual Parent Council insurance certificate had been received with NL once again paying this for school Parent Councils. Information had been received from NL on sending out invitations to parents / carers to join parent council. Mrs Munro and Mrs Ward will look into this.

The school website has now been updated and will be 'live' as of this week.

Head Teacher Report

Mrs Munro stated that there were several staffing issues affecting the academy at the start of the new term. Business Studies, English and Modern Languages all required staff. A teacher for Modern Languages was in place however, only taught Spanish. Principal Teacher was looking at incorporating this into the curriculum meantime. S1 would receive 1 period per week for the full session and the rest of the school for 6 months. Science were now back to full complement after the return of Ms Kelly.

Mrs Munro then went on to speak about the SQA results. S4 were the best ever and also in S6. In S5 1+ were improved and this was the group which the Pathfinder project had focussed on. The rest of the results were as predicted.

A full discussion took place on how the Parent Council can help school take things forward and improve. Mrs Munro stated that a booklet which had been developed by staff and targeting S4 will be issued soon and parents will be able to view the targets set by pupils and staff and monitor pupils' progress.

Mentoring will resume with SMT and some Principal Teachers helping with this. A homework club has been started at lunchtime in the SFL base by Mrs Lennox. Peer Support groups will be looked at by the Home School Partnership Officers.

Several working groups monitoring Raising Attainment, Monitoring and Tracking, Assessment and Learning and Teaching will be set up.

The Parent Council acknowledged that staffing was once again an issue for the school and advised Mrs Munro to let them know if they could help in any way with writing to authority. Mrs Munro said she would keep them posted of the situation.

AOCB

Mrs Munro advised the members that an article had been published in the Glasgow Herald which Mr Jamieson had written. This would be sent out to them.

A Twitter account was in the process of being opened on behalf of the school. Miss Ainslie, teacher of Technical Studies, was overseeing this.

The pupils who had been to Malawi during the final 2 weeks of term had come back full of enthusiasm and the Parent Council asked if it would be possible for some of them to come to a meeting of the Parent Council and give a presentation on their trip. Possibly look at inviting them into the school in order that the pupils can also see and hear about their experiences. Mrs Munro advised she would look into this. As it was such a success it was hoped that another group would be able to go possibly in 2 years time.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parent Council is on Monday 6th October at 6.30pm.