

**Minutes of Breadalbane Academy Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th
January 2008 at 6.30pm in the School Library**

Present: W. Olivier (Chair), A. Irvine (Vice Chair), L. Gibson, J. Riddell, T. Pringle, F. Broad, L. Swan (Head Teacher), M. Duncan, S. Olivier (Clerk), N. Ferguson, C. Nash (Treasurer), M. Cairncross, M. Thorley, F. Lumsden, S. McKinnon, A. Olivier
Apologies: L. Dixon, Cllr K. Lyall, A. Burrell, J. Westwood

1.0 Welcome and apologies

2.0 Minutes of Meeting 29th November 2007 have been circulated and with two slight amendments approved by the Parent Council.

3.0 HMIe Inspection

3.1 The Chair informed the council that the draft report from the HMIe was released but as only draft he was unable to go into any detail; the school had however received a positive feedback from the inspectors. LS thought the draft fair and favourable.

4.0 New School

4.1 Toilet facilities in the new school were discussed and it was decided to ballot the pupils and gauge their reaction to mixed toilet facilities. Result of ballot a few years ago to be reviewed.

4.2 Chairs plastic versus soft were discussed. Cleanliness of the soft chairs seemed the biggest issue. **Action:** Contact I. Bothwell re present situation with this.

5.0 Interviews

5.1 7th Feb interview date for new Depute Head. 5 interviewees short listed.

6.0 PTA Funds

6.1 PC account set up waiting for bank documents, once we have these able to go to PKC for funding. Additional funding available if requested by way of a bidding system. This could possibly be utilised by the Communication Group - formation of a crèche encouraging parents otherwise unable to attend to do so. A working tea also discussed.

6.2 Bag pack in Dec raised £343

6.3 PTA funds to be put in the school fund and then distributed to each department as pre arranged. **Action** LD to contact CN

7.0 Communications

7.1 Staff have completed questionnaires re the effectiveness of communication with pupils/parents/staff.

7.2 26th February at 4pm communications meeting. Carers/parents to attend if interested.

7.3 Questionnaires distributed to PC members for completion extra ones to distribute to other parents.

8.0 Head Teacher's Report

8.1 Staffing

S. Beattie - remains absent – doing very well

A. Towns – remains absent

M. Cook - phased return

J. Gray - phased return soon

V. Marshall – returned

S. Cannon – Australian exchange programme – Monica Fitzpatrick in his place

8.2 Achievements

In Dec Celebrating Success for junior pupils was very successful.

Ski trip very successful, exemplary behaviour by the pupils involved

8.3 Subjects

Prelims – Draft copy outlined. Start after 20th Feb

Calendar Change: S1 Parents Evening trying to change date as same as in service day.

Parents evening –New in depth discussion between guidance teacher and parents.

S4/5 course choices about to start

February In Service Day – focusing on transition from primary to secondary schools and a shared understanding of language standards of pupils.

8.4 Events/Clubs

Burns Supper – held last week very successful.

Fortingall Meal tomorrow night with all aspects of the evening provided by the pupils.

A thank you for the supporters of the Breadalbane Game initiative.

An evening on Friday arranged encouraging support from council figures for the pupils.

It was noted with regret that Cllr Eleanor Howie had passed away. She had been a former teacher of Maths at the school and it was thought a letter of condolence should be sent to her husband on behalf of the PC.

9.0 AOCB

9.1 School Bus Service - Dull – The unreliability of this bus service was brought to the attention of the PC. Lack of communication seems an issue. **MD to action.**

9.2 Group Texts – Questioned if this was still an expensive method of communication. Used to be but not now, so therefore easier to send a text with information to all parents rather than singling out a few: for example bus time changes due to adverse weather.

9.3 In Service Day Dates

30th April

5th May

9.4 Take Child to Work Day – Possible different options: Centrally co-ordinated from school, local company's take pupils as opposed to going to work with parents. Is there a possibility of a primary pupil buddied with a senior?

9.5 School Gate – 2 nights this gate has not been opened in time for P1 pupils, unsettling for pupils. Noted by school management.

Big transport units coming on site next week not during hour's pupils out.

Next meeting Tuesday 26th February 2008