

**Minutes of Breadalbane Academy Parent Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 26th February 2008 at 6.30pm in the School Library**

Present: W. Olivier (Chair), L. Gibson, T. Pringle, L. Swan (Head Teacher), M. Duncan, S. Olivier (Clerk), N. Ferguson, C. Nash (Treasurer), M. Cairncross, I. Hulbert, W. Watson, F. Lumsden,

Apologies: S. McKinnon, A. Irvine, F. Broad, M. Thorley, L. Dixon, Cllr K. Lyall, Cllr I. Campbell, A. Burrell, J. Westwood, C. Thom

1.0 Welcome and apologies

2.0 Minutes of Meeting 29th January 2007 have been circulated and were approved by the Parent Council.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 New School Chairs: The Chair informed the council there had been no further feedback as yet regarding the choice of chairs. Pupil's views had been acknowledged at consultation however expense was a problem.

3.2 PTA Funds: Arrangements completed. Letters to be sent to all departments tomorrow stating the figure gifted on behalf of the PTA.

3.3 PKC Funding for Parent Council: The Treasurer reported awaiting one signatory to complete the opening of the bank account then monies which are in transit may be deposited. (Circa £400) PKC have insurance which covers the Parent Council.

3.4 Extra Funding Update: The school has applied for £1,000 extra funding, awaiting results.

3.5 Caber Coaches Feedback: CC phoned parents of children on the Dull bus and have now changed the timing of buses.

4.0 Website

4.1 WO met with Primary Pupil Council reps – their concern that they were not represented on the website. There is still a lack of info coming from the Primary dept., some is gathered but not all forwarded. During conversation it was discovered that the website is not child friendly.

4.2 Ideas put forward - Pupils to be given responsibility to gather information and pass on to be put on the web. P7 Pupils to liaise with PT in secondary. SE classes in Secondary to gather info from Primary. Encourage reports from each school trip – digital camera to be part of school trip kit – photo's on website.

4.3 Suggestion by next PC meeting group formed with adults showing pupils how to report information for the website. Linda Thompson to be asked to assist.

5.0 Interview

5.1 Depute Head Improvement. 5 interviewees. Colin Murray PT Physics at Glenrothes appointed. Likely start date after Easter.

6.0 Communications

6.1 Meeting had been due to take place today but changed to Tues 4th March.

6.2 PC members asked to complete questionnaires.

6.3 Questionnaires to be put on website - awaiting responses.

7.0 Head Teacher's Report

7.1 Staffing

S. Beattie - remains absent however the board was delighted to hear she is now in remission and should return sometime in the summer term.

All other staff now back.

Staffing discussions with Pullar House - the school is holding its own but it is tight. There will be no free probationers this year as the authority is not hitting its target to enable this.

7.2 Subjects

Prelims – Tighter reign on regulations for SQA exam conditions. i.e. no mobile phones to be allowed in the examination hall.

School Timetables – Discussions taking place on subjects to be offered.

Calendar Change - 30th April S1 Parents Evening. A different approach to parent evenings is being tried, with an in depth discussion between guidance teacher and parents on the night.

Inservice Day - Primary and Secondary staff worked on same issue of language discussing together the quality of pupil's writing, enlightening all staff on abilities re grading.

Subject Choices – Parents are to be invited to subject choice interviews with their child.

7.3 Events/Clubs

Fortingall Evening - Very successful with all the pupils involved excelling themselves. Waitresses were excellent; pupils in the kitchen were fantastic and learnt a lot. Many letters of thanks have been received since the evening.

Drama Workshop S3 – Issues depicted were relevant to that age group and were very well received. The workshop made a big impact on the pupils.

Tree of Knowledge – Due to additional funding this is to be offered to pupils with the aim to help them achieve more in exams. This is done by giving the pupils techniques on how to relax, to deal with stress, and an insight into how the brain works. Sessions will be held for S3/4/5/6, the staff and also during parent evenings.

8.0 AOCB

8.1 Staffing P4 – The issue was raised that with 3 teachers covering this class it is confusing for the pupils. Staff aware of the difficulties for the pupils and doing all they can to deal with the situation.

8.2 Primary 2 Numbers – Question if class would be split next year due to high numbers of 30/31 pupils. School is looking at options available to reduce the numbers but first needs to know the staffing situation for next year.

8.3 The Chair told the council that on behalf of the parent council, he had sent the letter of condolence to Eleanor Howie's husband and sister. Cllr Katie Howie was to be contacted and invited to the Parent Council meetings as a newly elected councillor.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Next meeting Tuesday 25th March 2008