

**Minutes of Breadalbane Academy Parent Forum (AGM) Meeting held on  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 6.30pm in the school library**

**1) Present:** J Scott (Acting Head Teacher), A Irvine (Chair), H Taylor (Vice Chair), T Pringle (Treasurer), C Nash (Secretary), M Duncan (Depute Head), C Murray (Depute Head), Cllr I Campbell, Cllr K Lyall, M Cairncross, F Broad, H Murdoch, M Murdoch, D Riddell, N Ferguson, C Bryson, I Hulbert, F Hulbert, G Menzies, F Lumsden, A Johnson, Y Stewart, S MacKinnon, B Cameron, A Colley, B Colley, L Dixon

**Apologies:** W Olivier, C Thom, S Beattie, J Westwood. N Menzies.

**2) Approval of Minutes:**

**3) Head Teacher update:** Mr J Scott introduced himself and gave some background of his experience. He has been a head teacher for the last 16 years.

Due to L Swan being seconded he was asked to come to Breadalbane for 7 weeks to cover L Swans secondment.

He has been apprehending students found smoking, and has strong support from parents with regards to enforcing the wearing of school uniform.

PPP project – J Scott had several meetings in Pullar House, including one with P McAvoy re moving forward.

Staffing – There is an ongoing debate re behaviour support with the authority. The English department have 3 very good English supply teachers insitu. PT of modern language is working as faculty head in the English department.

Results – based on 14 indicators. Breadalbane Academy is 43% above of the authority average. Mr Murray then discussed the results in more detail, and agreed to give a brief presentation of results at the next meeting.

Questions to JS raised by PC members;

Q - Impressed to hear of these strong results, how can they best be communicated to other parents?

A – press release good and would give higher profile for the school. (see 6)

Q - Unhappy that no prior warning of L Swan's secondment (as happened with J Low), and that lots of investment in JS suggests that his position is for longer than 7 weeks?

A – Is regrettable that he does not know more, and will reflect back to S Devlin and C Webb.

Q - What were some of the poorer results?

A - Unhappy with some of the credit results, but this was reflected across the authority

#### **4) School bus routes – P&K policy of distance and charges**

P&K were meant to send a senior management member to address the PC to enable parents to understand the system better and be able to ask questions directly to someone in the authority. With many placing request pupils on bus routes, there is not always sufficient capacity on some buses for all students. Placing request students are not entitled to a school bus pass, and have to make their own arrangements to journey to and from school.

JS suggested parents with any queries / problems write a letter to the school's business manager, J Westwood, in the first instance.

#### **5) Update the database of parents' email addresses – for enhanced communication**

This has been an issue raised by the PC over the past couple of years, and before we have been told there were too many technical difficulties in setting this up. However, JS has a particular skill in IT also, and believes there should be no problem in taking this project forward. Extra staff in-put would be necessary, but could be used as part of a training programme.

#### **6) Communications – policy for getting the 'Breadalbane' message out to the wider community.**

Improving communication with parents, through the web site, Parental news letter, email and group call.

A press officer will be appointed as soon as possible.

#### **7) Fund raising committee – status report**

The Thrift shop made £760.00 – the total in the accounts £3752.00

T Pringle to meet with the student Council 26<sup>th</sup> August at their lunchtime meeting.

#### **8) Program to track P&K policy on minibus replacements**

As no personnel from Perth came to the meeting as requested, we will invite them to the next meeting and hope to get answers on this issue.

#### **9) June 2010 new school Fete?**

The consensus was to carry on with this project, but urgently need to decide what we raise funds for. 2 suggestions;

- a) Larger items the school needs
- b) A smaller list of things that each department would like to enhance the teaching of pupils.

The option of having a representative from either the Charities or Dance committee being part of the PC Fundraising Committee, and work on this large project, could help them learn about advanced planning.

Location of the fete will be in the school grounds.

Fundraising committee to meet with the senior student charities committee once it has formed.

#### **10) Create a generic email address for the parent council members from P&K, for better feedback and communications**

To be accessible from the school website – to be looked into.

### **12) Investigate P&K policy on WiFi in schools**

WiFi is a lower power process and no research states it's a problem

A Irvine, will contact A Pointer and get some more info.

### **13) AOCB**

- To help newer parents recognise staff, would it be possible to have pictures of staff and a thumb nail info on them on the website?

JS – Will talk to union reps, reasonable but not normal procedure.

- Children don't seem to know the new teachers and supply teachers.

JS – The class teachers have been introduced to the classes.

- Are supply teachers aware of children with special needs?

There is an information folder that the teachers are to look at. MD will look into making sure this is done.

- Netball; with the teacher leaving is there anyone else to take this on?

MD – will look into this with staff and let parents know the outcome

- Why are French text books not being allowed home to help with child's homework?

Is this due to some coming back in a bad state?

This will be looked into.

It was noted there were no parents from the Pitlochry area present.

- Could signs be put up to direct parents to the PC meeting room?

JS – yes this could be done, and will look into it.

- 9<sup>th</sup> September there is an 'All Highland Perthshire Parent Council' meeting at Breadalbane Academy and Lorraine Sandas will be present. All welcome, and would parents please pass the message on to others.

The meeting then closed at 8.15pm

**The next meeting is 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009**