

Breadalbane Academy Parent Council Minutes Tuesday 29th September 2009

Present: - J Scott, M Duncan, C Murray, A Irvine (Chair), H Taylor (Vice Chair) C Nash (Secretary), A Warrington (P& K Council), K Robertson (P & K council), H Murdoch, M Murdoch, Cllr Lyall, Cllr Campbell, M Cairncross, Y Stewart, N Menzies, B Cameron, A Pointer, I Hulbert, C Bryson, J Kennedy, N Ferguson, N Lumsden, Mr Brettell, J Middleton (Pupil Council Rep) T Ashton-Clements (Pupil Council Rep)

Apologies: - F Broad, S Beattie, W Olivier, T Pringle, J Riddell, D Riddell

1 Welcome and apologies.

2 Previous minutes – agreed

3 Transport policy.

A Warrington & K Robertson introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their roles within P & K Council.

The law states that under 8yrs of age the child gets free school transport if they live 2 miles or more away, and over 8yrs of age they live 3 miles or more away.

However Perth & Kinross has the policy of -

Primary school children get a free bus to school if they are 2 miles away or more.

Secondary pupils only get a free school bus if they are 3 miles away or more.

Parents of pupils who are placing requests are responsible for getting their children to and from school. Due to increasing placing requests P & K have had to put a double decker bus on one route

Leaflets are being prepared for the new school campus in respect of safe routes to school etc. to encourage less use of private cars around the school.

There was uncertainty as to which buses were service buses and which school buses. A bus route planner with all this information is available from the school office.

There are continuing health and safety issue with cars still parking on the yellow lines

4 Presentation & Explanation of school results

As requested at our previous meeting, Mr Murray gave a full presentation on the schools exam results, giving details of measurements used.

a) Comparing Breadalbane with similar schools around Scotland – our Comparators. Breadalbane are shown to consistently be on or above average in most levels and in most subjects.

b) Using this data, the management team are able to target areas which require extra support or resources.

c) These results hopefully can be posted on the school website, and be an aide to improving the positive message about the school to parents, guardians, pupils and the wider community.

5 School Parent Details Data base

The process of gathering, developing and maintaining an effective database of home contact details is currently underway in the school. This will enhance communication between home and school. Encouragement needs to be given to all to complete the necessary forms.

6 Communications

Mr Scott informed the PC that there are two publicity appointments made and these are Mrs J Westwood and Ms L Thomas.

7 Fundraising Committee update – school fete 2010

Waiting to find out what they are going to be fundraising for. Possibly a new minibus – see point 8

8 Mini bus replacements

The replacement of mini buses is linked to the budget review. Mr Warrington informed the meeting a Vehicle Replacement policy document has been brought before the Chief Executive and Executive officers for consideration. He will come back to us once he has spoken to others. No time scale given, but he knows of our need for advice ASAP in order to fundraise ourselves.

9 Wifi in new school

Concern has been raised regarding the wave frequency and effect it has on our children and staff. A Pointer provided handouts and information on relevant informative websites to highlight these concerns. J Scott replied that no such concerns had been proven and that any such concerns should, in the first instance, be taken to P McAvoy, our contact re the new school build.

10 Money agreed to be spent by PC

a) Another block of radios were suggested to extend the network and safety of the staff and volunteer helpers who are at various locations around the town; by the buses, at the astro turf and patrolling the areas children hang out at intervals etc
Agreed – CN to source

b) Primary parent helpers (volunteers) through enhanced Disclosure Scotland –
Agreed to pay for 7 parents helpers (volunteers)

c) Primary 'wet weather boxes' need up dating and replenishing now the darker wetter days are coming. £30 per class was asked for – **Agreed**

d) Pupil Council have ideas but not costing – Out door shelter, disco equipment, TV and films, bike shelter. – **Pupil council to email PC so we can get costs**

11 Generic email address for PC

A Irvine to write to M Birch regarding possibilities of setting up a generic Parent council e-mail address via the school website, to ease communication between school and home.

12 Head Teacher report

Staffing –

English Dept – 5 English teachers which will reduce the size of S5 and S6 classes.
3 new teachers – 2 fixed term and 1 permanent.

Maths – Welcome Mr Edwards

Acting PT business Education interviews taking place Wednesday 30th September – due to maternity leave.

PE – Welcome Mr Alonso

Art – a new art teacher will be advertised for in the near future due to retirement.

3 New Primary teaching staff – 2 fixed term 1 permanent

3 Support team – transition to the new school.

A librarian has been appointed for the new Campus library

1 Admin assistant, 1 Care and Pupil Welfare Officer and 1 General assistant are advertised.

Changing culture and Ethic of a school takes years, steps have been taken.
Parents are supporting the school.

Head Teacher replacement – Mr Scott leaves 30th October and his replacement will be in the week before for a week's handover period. Who is not known yet.

Mr Scott thanked Parent Council, Teachers and staff for their support while he has been here.

The school is raising attainment and achievement, Pupil conduct, ethos and ethics.

There have been 2 successes – SQA geography Advanced Higher best student in Scotland and the Rugby team are the recipients of the Gold award.

AOCB

Mrs Ferguson asked if any Primary parent would like to sit on the Primary school fund.

The student charities committee raised £240 with a cake stall

The meeting closed at 9pm

Next meeting 7pm Tuesday 27th October