

**MINUTES OF  
BREADALBANE PARENTS MEETING  
HELD AT  
ROYAL SCHOOL OF DUNKELD  
ON WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Present:**

Helen Taylor (Chair)  
Karl Wright (Vice Chair)  
Lewis McCallum (Pupil Council)  
Linda Swan, Head Teacher  
Dr Armstrong, Science Teacher  
Caroline Nash, Care and Welfare Officer  
Ruth Brown  
Andrea Cox  
Iona Lancaster  
Bill Wright  
Karen Robertson  
Rhona Pollock  
Angela Ness  
Chris Claydon  
Mel Nicoll  
Fiona Fletcher (Clerk)

**Apologies:**

Tommy Pringle (Treasurer)  
Avril Taylor  
Rosemary Wright  
Andrew Pointer  
Annette Beaton  
Karen Brown  
John Quigly  
Tiffy Shedden

Helen Taylor thanked everyone for the good attendance at this first mobile Parent Council Meeting.

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
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<b>2</b>	<b><u>What is the Parent Council for?</u></b>	
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The Parent Council (PC) we know today supersedes the previous School Board and PTA Meetings of yesteryear. This Committee is set up to build relationships between parents, teachers and pupils. It acts as a consultation group for problems as well as for new initiatives. Any issues reported to Parent Council will be communicated to the school and thus reported back on once a year at the AGM. A copy of 'What is the Parent Council for?' draft document was circulated. KW said he would welcome any feedback, negative or positive, on this. It states the new website shortly to be in use, namely 'contact@breadalbaneparents.com'.

<b>3</b>	<b><u>Matters Arising (Updates from Previous Minutes)</u></b>	
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Service 23/Service 823 Bus: HT gave everyone an update on the school bus services. She made mention of how the Bankfoot meeting regarding the 823 Service was well attended. She herself has written to Director of Education and copied in Councillors and MSP John Swinney. Mr Swinney has informed her back he will be in touch again once he has heard back from the Director. A Freedom of Information request is to be submitted on this issue to see what it throws up. HT

KW is looking at ‘children’s rights’ organisations to find out the legality of targeting children only in this way. There is a need to identify something ‘solid’ which can help with this case. KW

HT reiterated how this was a huge welfare concern and that it affected the whole community of Breadalbane Academy and not just the children directly involved, as the school roll was falling, potentially affecting 60 pupils if the 823 service is removed as the Council threaten to do.

A question was raised as to whether this was only school affected by removal of public service bus and a replacement ‘contract’ bus arranged. It is the only school that the PC are aware of.

Communication Initiatives so far: KW pointed out if people are unable to attend a PC Meeting there are other ways of getting in touch. However, if they prefer to attend a meeting, the PC are making this easier by having a more mobile approach and arranging meetings nearer to home, as they have done this evening.

As well as attending these meetings, parents can use the Breadalbane Parents’ website. Please check regularly for updates.

Also there is a ‘Facebook’ group set up. This is mostly recording parents’ views on various topics, and has about 20 hits a day.

‘Big Tent’ was the first forum used by parents, and is still available.

LS informed also there is now a ‘Twitter’ feed for Breadalbane Academy, currently used mostly by teachers. HT thought the ‘twittering’ a good idea with a chance for school to ‘blow own trumpet’ as so much would be missed as there is lots going on in school. School website is used, of course, for bigger and more official items.

The Pupil Council do reports on some topics which then feed into the Student Council.

The PC business cards were handed out for everyone to use as a reference aid.

#### 4 **Head Teacher’s Report:**

Mrs Swan (LS) introduced Dr Armstrong (teacher), Caroline Nash (admin office) and Lewis McCallum (Pupil Council) to everyone.

LS asked the meeting if all received school updates via e’mail. She said it was easy to have your name added and it keeps parents informed. Reminder to be put on website and in letter to parents to do this, by accessing school’s website and click on bottom right ‘update contact details’. Email school with child’s name. All

Staffing: The school deputy retired in the summer and new start Emily Ross should have started by after the October holidays. Primary Deputy and Head have good channel of communication in place.

Breadalbane Primary School is expanding. They have an all day nursery as well as gaelic medium education. Also, they have now in place a one year fixed term Principal Teacher, Mrs Jo Allan.

There are currently vacancies for admin posts, Learning Assistants (temporary post in primary, permanent in secondary), and a hairdresser. There is a hairdressing salon on campus but no longer a hairdresser. The school run a course for the children on an Intermediate I and II level (equivalent to standard grade). If anyone knows of anyone who may be interested in this vacancy they should contact LS. Would prefer for this hairdressing course to continue for the benefit of S3 and SIV pupils. No teaching qualification is required and it is for 6 hours a week. SQA need to approve. Would probably suit mobile worker.

Salon can also be used as a resource, if required, for other things.

LS to look at what current situation is with regards supply of Learning Support Assistants. LS

New post, 'Business Development Officer' – purpose of which is to find out what community would like that the Campus can offer.

There is a primary teacher vacancy which closes on 3 Oct 2012. Gaelic Medium Teacher interviews are on Tuesday 2 Oct.

There are currently no vacancies for Secondary School. English Dept have good 'Supply' teachers in place.

Contract states probationers cannot stay in post unless no other probationer is available to take their place. Progress tracked is good in all 3 current probationers in Science, PE and Primary 3.

Curriculum for Excellence – New course looking at raising the bar with new skills. Focus is on the experiences of children and not so much on the 3 R's. Now developing 'learning conversations' based on training to get best out of pupils is a lot of work for the pupils. Level is comparable to National 4 (general) or 5 (credit level). Letter to go out on curriculum evening with more on this after October holidays. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils will not be taking part in this course work.

The Colin McRae Rally – Registration for this event will occur on Campus shortly. This is considered a learning opportunity.

Learning and Achievement Visit – Team of Quality Inspection Officers will be guided by LS to what's considered the best areas of Campus. They will be viewing from a child's perspective and will report back to LS. PC are requested to get involved in this. HT/KW

Training and Support for Young People – Lewis McCallum spoke of how Franny McGrath and others arranged for representatives of Student Council to give up their time to help both primary and secondary pupils in need of support. The reps are from S1 to SVI and take a turn manning a half hour

‘Support Learning Period’ in middle of day. They have had one meeting so far and these are minuted. Feedback is reported back to children at school assembly. Suggestions so far have been put forward on how to improve general things, eg canteen. However, they are happy to take on larger items if any should arise. This group feeds back to LS.

Standards and Quality Report – To be reviewed after October holidays.

### **New Business**

Duke of Edinburgh: Gus Clark has asked the PC to mention that DofE require more volunteers. In particular, help required with the expedition work. No qualifications are needed for this, although perhaps experience of this nature would be a good thing. More details to go on the website. The Group meantime wished to commend Mr Clark on all his good work in this regard.

Fundraising: Previous quiz night was a big success in terms of fundraising. Looking to have another one perhaps around Feb 2013? CN to arrange.

CN

‘100 Club’: To kickstart this idea requires a small lotteries licence from the Council. Suggestion of £12 paid by each member, with a monthly draw for £50 payout. The licence costs £40 first month, and £20 monthly thereafter. Intend on selling this idea to parents on parents’ night.

Register to Giving Machine – PC fund builds up every time someone who has registered with this organisation spends with big retail outlets like Amazon, Next ....

Christmas Hampers: Ask for donations to fill, and sell tickets. This could be arranged by Pupil Council. Luxury hampers are another option, and could be profitable on run up to Christmas.

Christmas Cards: Possibly too late to arrange for this year but should be borne in mind for next, as these too are good fundraisers. Kids could make them, print off by Danscot and stall set up ready for selling by volunteers.

Talent Show: Pupil Council event, with parent and .... teacher involvement!

All

Communication with the Commann nam Paran: Question raised as to why Breadalbane Academy was chosen as the Gaelic Medium school. However, it is the Council who decide as to which school this should be. Gaelic is compulsory in S1, however, it was felt this often works against the language, as pupils are put off having learnt the basics at primary. Therefore, S1 should perhaps be taught at a higher level of the language. Perhaps even 2 streams of education are required, for both learners and natives. LS confirmed the support for Gaelic was still there with one good size class having just been put through. Although not many are presently studying for a qualification in the language.

LS

### **Any Other Current Business**

Cases of bullying have been reported on the 823 bus, and parents asked if

LS

there was anything being done about it. LS confirmed the school know about it and are dealing with individuals involved. She emphasised there was a joint responsibility between parents and school and suggested waiting behind after the meeting if individuals wishes to discuss this further and in confidence. It was pointed out that Caroline Nash was often the best point of contact for the children as she is their Care and Welfare Officer.

Criticism was fired at the quality of the 'Standards and Quality Report'. It was described by one parent as a poor document which offered little incentive for anyone to read it as it was too tedious a job. This then impacts on attendance at parental/school meetings as parents have not understood what document is telling them. LS understood this point but unfortunately much of how the document is written is dictated by the authorities. The document is in fact 54 pages in length and has to be condensed considerably before distributing to parents.

HT says the Education Department should also be able to help with this, perhaps by way of providing local government guidelines. KW will put a plain English version on website as well as the official version, but by law, School must adhere to the official way and keep document as 'tight as possible'. He would welcome any other feedback on this document once he has posted. KW/HT

This matter to be added as new agenda item for next meeting. Clerk

## 7 **Date of Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 2035 hours. Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012.