

**Breadalbane Academy Parent Council
Meeting 30th October 2012**

ACTION NOTE OF MEETING

Present: Andrew Pointer, Avril Taylor, Caroline Nash, Christina Bryson, Elizabeth Leighton, Elizabeth Birch (student council rep), Emma Burtles, Emily Ross, Franny McGrath, Helen Taylor, (Chair), Ian Campbell, Karen Brown, Karl Wright, (Vice Chair), Linda Swan, Michael Williamson, Sarah Yearsley, (Clerk).

Apologies: Nigel and Fiona Lumsden, Tommy Pringle, Fiona Fletcher, Dr Armstrong

Agenda Item	Action Noted	Action required	Action by
1. Welcome & Apologies	Apologies as above		
2.	Welcome to Emily Ross, new Depute at Primary		
3. Matters arising from last meeting	<p>Update from HT on meeting in Dunkeld: Useful exercise and people were there from Dunkeld and Bankfoot. Thinking would be good idea to go to Pitlochry to be available to S5 and 6 parents. Need to publicise meeting well in advance.</p> <p>Future meeting dates as on school website: Tues 27th November, 6:30pm (Ballinluig) Tues 29th January, 6:30pm Tues 26th February, 6:30pm Tues 26th March, 6:30pm (Fortingall) Tues 30th April, 6:30pm Tues 28th May, 6:30pm AGM Royal School of Dunkeld</p> <p>EL – add to agenda things that suit local parents' issues and concerns.</p> <p>At Dunkeld just put normal agenda items on and asked for any particular Dunkeld concerns. KW asked if it's worth asking Pitlochry parents about transition to Breadalbane. Can we ask Pitlochry school to</p>	<p>Ask Aileen Burns and Henry Murdoch re how to contact Pitlochry parents. CB offered to publicise as works in nursery at Pitlochry – happy to distribute posters</p> <p>Check on mins re date for meeting in</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>SY</p>

	<p>ask parents about attending the meeting.</p> <p>Rhona Pollok ok to do poster for next meeting.</p> <p>a. 23 bus issue – update from HT. Has had reply from John Fyffe at PKC – has put scanned copy of the letter on the Big Tent. (website /forum for local orgs to help with running publicity etc)</p> <p>only HT, KW and CN have access to contact details on Big Tent so is quite private. HT not happy with the reply. HT has had exchange of emails with Barbara Vaughan re the response. Looking at next steps. HT has spoken with a Bankfoot parent this week re having a sub group to take this forward. So will see how things move on after that and report back.</p> <p>KW hasn't had a chance to find legal advice – will do that this week.</p> <p>HT and KW wrote article now on Comment website – stating how PC feel that there is an adverse impact on the school potential fall in school roll and subsequent loss of teachers.</p> <p>b. Communication initiative Business cards have been printed with PC contact details – HT handed them out at S4 parents eve. KW has given them out too. Aim to hand out at every parents eve. Seemed quite easy to hand them out. HT has sent round a rota. TP to do 2 days. No other volunteers. Need someone for S3 – Mon 26 Nov.</p> <p>Had thought about doing a letter to all parents. Don't want to miss people out who aren't online. Letter would be sent out in school bags.</p> <p>Emma Burtles hasn't received emails for a while – need to go to front of school website to update details.</p> <p>c. Gaelic in S1 – update on issue raised at previous PC mtg. Children from Dunkeld felt</p>	<p>Pitlochry.</p> <p>Write poster copy</p> <p>Seek legal advice re 23 bus changes</p> <p>Check if available</p>	<p>KW</p> <p>KW</p> <p>CB</p>
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	<p>that they were repeating things. LS has spoken to Mr McSween about this. LS would prefer to deal with this kind of specific issue outside the Parent Council. Feedback from Mr McSween was that depth and quality are important so he needs to go through things again, if any parent wants to discuss things further with him please get in touch rather than it being raised at PC.</p> <p>KW asked for more detail. CN asked for parents to ask school if they want to know more.</p> <p>FMcG commented that we need to be careful as people start to look for negative.</p> <p>AP – can see what KW's getting at. Is this a problem that's been resolved?</p> <p>AP – what is outcome at end of S1 in Gaelic? AP suggested that there will come a time when there is an issue with standards for learners in Gaelic. LS replied that Gaelic is taught up to end of S1 and then there is an element of choice.</p> <p>d. Issue re bullying on no 23 bus. HT contacted parents who raised this and seemed to have settled down. But have heard that there has been an issue again last week. Seems to be a boys thing going on. LS thinks that this school deals well with lots of issues that lots of schools wouldn't such as this. There is joint responsibility for behaviour on the bus between parents and school. There are no teachers on the bus to see what's going on. LS does have a concern that they don't hear about everything. LS wants to encourage people to tell school if they are unhappy about behaviour on the bus. CN has role as pupil welfare officer and is aware of some issues. LS wants to encourage parents to pick up phone to school – even if the children don't want to.</p> <p>HT pleased to hear that children have sorted some things out themselves.</p> <p>Children have to remain seated. Some buses</p>	<p>make sure people who attended the Dunkeld meeting get the minutes so that they know the concern has been addressed.</p>	<p>HT</p>
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	<p>have CCTV – and in the past school have shown parents footage to show their children's behaviour. School spends a lot of time on bus issues. LS would encourage people to get in touch about any concerns.</p> <p>Where a child who has been misbehaving on the bus has a bus pass they go through a process with the risk of losing bus pass if it continues.</p> <p>KW – who should parents contact? LS and CN said that they should ring or email school. Often CN takes the calls anyway and passes issues on to a depute to be dealt with.</p> <p>There are prefects on buses and they are asked to keep an eye on things. Good behaviour is everyone's responsibility.</p>		
4.	<p>Headteacher's Update</p> <p>LS delighted that Emily has joined in primary. There have been issues with staffing in P5/6 class. Securing staff has been very difficult and other schools experience similar problems.</p> <p>Mr Weir has been appointed as class teacher. The class has had a supply teacher this week and Mr Weir is starting full time next week.</p> <p>AT – pleased to hear that. But have had 5 teachers since August. LS said she did try to ensure continuity as much as possible.</p> <p>Children find it difficult to adjust to changes. LS is aware of challenges. The school tries to do its best in the circumstances.</p> <p>HT said that she's not aware of all the circumstances when school are short of a teacher. She gets the impression that the Education authority aren't quick in getting the recruitment process underway. Process is lengthier than LS would like – supply teachers don't have to give notice which can lead to gaps occurring which are tricky to sort out. Dealing with supply teachers is not ideal and there are fixed rules around closing dates,</p>		

	<p>taking up references and so on which make the recruitment process lengthy.</p> <p>KB asked if we can change the notice periods.</p> <p>IC replied that teaching recruitment is regulated by central agreements so the school has to abide by those.</p> <p>Emma Burtles commented that communication is still an issue. She has had problems with receiving letters in school bags.</p> <p>LS and CN replied that normally the school tries to coordinate a group call with sending out letters so that parents know a letter is coming.</p> <p>LS knows that communication is still an issue.</p> <p>Gaelic medium teaching – Bridget McPhee is on 23 month secondment to the Gaelic medium class which gives the school some . breathing space. She is not trained in teaching in Gaelic medium so LS will ensure that she gets the support she needs.</p> <p>AP – happy to hear this from a personal point of view but is still not sure about it. He has reservations and will go into that another time. AP is concerned about a lack of commitment to Gaelic more widely. Also concerned that Miss McPhee might not want to stay.</p> <p>Funding is committed to Gaelic medium but not all are entitled to Gaelic medium provision AP thinks it's a grey area.</p> <p>LS reported success in a science quiz called – Top of the Bench. Breadalbane Academy travelled to Glenalmond School and scored a resounding victory! (The phrase 'wiped the floor' has been used by some!)</p> <p>School have made it through in a competition to be connected through to international space station with NASA – whole school will participate in a video link with astronauts in December.</p>	<p>email Dr Armstrong for details and feedback to KW for an interview with team members</p>	<p>CN KW</p>
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	<p>School have to come up with 20 questions. KW said it would be good to have photos and the option to record children asking questions.</p> <p>The school has received £5k from Lloyds TSB charitable foundation so that Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme can buy new tents.</p> <p>Students at Breadalbane are to be offered an opportunity to go on a trip to China. Mrs Carr is doing a presentation about her trip to China in August 2012 and canvassing demand for a Breadalbane trip in Autumn 2013.</p> <p>Extended Learning and Achievement visit – 19 – 21 Nov. Group of education officers will come into campus and will attend classes. They might follow children for a day to see what their learning experience is – in both primary and secondary – up to S3 and senior phase. They will report back on what they've observed and will report back on focused areas. They will observe transitions, not just primary to secondary. They will observe learning and teaching in classroom, particularly in English, Maths, Geography and Modern languages. They will also look at support for pupils and will interview pupils. Parents will also be involved in the assessment. They will want to talk to a no of people and gain parents' views on things that are going well and not so well.</p> <p>The school will receive a full report and feedback. There will be a verbal report initially and then a written report will be sent to parents. This is the first time a campus has been through this process and HMI inspectors are coming too. There is a lot of paperwork. LS may go back to Helen about this.</p> <p>AT may be invited to be involved as a member of local community.</p> <p>AP returned to the issue of Gaelic medium teaching – re teacher needing to attend training. LS informed us that the first opportunity will be during INSET days. They</p>		
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Helen

Comment [1]: Were these subject singled out?

	<p>are trying to get her to a Gaelic medium school – to look at planning. Trying to space it out. LS assured us that this is being sensitively handled.</p> <p>AP understandd that there's been no Gaelic in P4. LS said that it's going to restart in Jan. AP is concerned that in this situation siblings will fall behind those being taught in the Gaelic medium class.</p> <p>KW asked for an update on staffing report. Have there been any changes since last month? Only change is new start for Emily Ross.</p>	Clarify and send out updated information to parents	LS
5. Standards and Quality report	<p>Standards and Quality Report was raised at Dunkeld meeting. KW and HT have looked through the report and a number of questions have come up.</p> <p>KB has a question about levels and feels that this needs clarifying.</p> <p>LS explained that the Scottish Government want to measure all schools in a similar way. School have to distil pages of information into something parents want to hear about.</p> <p>Benchmarks. Use tracking to see where pupils are – and then set targets and try to push pupils up – predictions are sent to the education authority and school can see if they measure up when the exam results come in.</p> <p>Parents could find it difficult to understand 5+ levels – needs clarification</p> <p>AP thinks that there's an issue with jargon – the report is not a user friendly document.</p> <p>It also needs additional info on Glow. LS received that feedback at the last meeting. School have to produce an annual report. But school have to distil 54 pages into 2 pages of A4 for the Q & S report.</p> <p>KW commented that there aren't many comparators in the report. There are in secondary but not in primary. LS explained</p>		

	<p>that there are different ways of comparing. Breadalbane has different comparator schools for different subjects relating to groups of students rather than catchment area. KW asked to see the 54 page document.</p> <p>SY asked if these reports are on the school website.</p> <p>KW agreed to meet with LS to go through the Q & S report to examine how it could be made more accessible to parents.</p> <p>LS explained that we need to understand what is statistically significant.</p> <p>2% is a pupil – less significant in a big school but can skew figures in a smaller school like Breadalbane.</p> <p>FMcG was keen to focus on the positive within the report. KW thinks that we do.</p> <p>AP commented that this school and Pitlochry always used to be in top 5 in Scotland. But has gone a long way down. CN commented that surely the number of pupils now is bigger. The courses on offer meet needs of other pupils who are now here.</p> <p>LS commented that the way Breadalbane's results were reflected were inflated.</p> <p>LS lots of pupils in senior school who may not go to university but have a lot to offer. HT commented that LS is saying that a good proportion of pupils are staying on into 6th year and are getting a good quality experience and are progressing. An appropriately stepped learning programme is offered – some people will never manage to pass 5 Highers. The school's job is to work with that.</p> <p>AP said that he won't disagree with that but still feels that some children could achieve more at higher level.</p> <p>The school has had good success with mentoring. It's important that parents</p>	<p>Check if full reports available on school website.</p>	<p>CN</p>
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	<p>encourage children in 6th year.</p> <p>FMcG commented on the importance of seeing the rounded person in thinking about pupil achievement.</p>	<p>Work through Q&S report separately</p>	<p>LS</p>
<p>6. Clubs</p>	<p>Suggestion that the PC should look at current school clubs and after school activities and see if there are any gaps in provision and where PC could help. This was felt to be a good thing but we need to collate information.</p> <p>Any resulting directory will include primary clubs, inc Gaelic playgroup.</p>	<p>provide list of clubs and study clubs Study clubs</p> <p>provide list of local community clubs</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>FMcG</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>HT asked for a War memorial update. The memorial is completed and is in assembly hall ready to go onto wall. It will be up by 11th November. And there will be a dedication ceremony. LS said that this will be important for the local community and that Sandy Gunn, former minister, will be contacted to come in. KW commented that we need a photographer there. PC kindly put in some extra money £150. School had £300 from War Bonds.</p>		
<p>8. AOB</p>	<p>LS raised that recently retired teacher, Sheila Beattie, would like to do hangings for the school hall to represent the school houses. She wants to work with the children and other local adults. PC were supportive of this.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Student Council could raise funds. This will be passed on to student council to discuss. HT in this case the PC could top up any fundraising.</p> <p>Student Council items:</p> <p>Canteen – concern about the way that it's set up. Prices are not displayed so it's not clear. No allergy advice is displayed. Different tills charge different prices. The SC have contacted Tayside Contracts but haven't had anything back. They will contact them again. KW asked if the SC wanted the PC to do anything.</p>		

	<p>Community Connection day is on 13th Nov – student council will have a stall. HT asked what the day is. A flier will come out. The idea came out of a conversation with the community capacity builder around how to link everyone up locally. 48 different groups will have a table or a room.</p> <p>One of the aims is to encourage young people to do more in way of volunteering.</p> <p>Student Council are going to have a noticeboard in main concourse.</p> <p>AP mentioned that there still needs to be a board about management structure and who does what. LS said that this is in hand and that school have a photographer lined up.</p> <p>Student Council Fun Day. A talent show was suggested to raise awareness and funds.</p> <p>HT suggested charging people to come in.</p> <p>KW asked for fundraising ideas to be put back on agenda.</p> <p>HT suggested that we could discuss a 100 club. She is happy to apply for licence but is concerned about logistics.</p> <p>AP raised the issue mentioned to him by the parent of special needs child in primary. The child has an Ipad with lots of essential apps but needs internet connection and can't connect to school wi fi.</p> <p>AP understood that the school has a policy on mobile phones. Emily Ross was unaware of any issues and asked that the parent concerned contact her directly. Again school felt that this was an issue that should be dealt with with them directly rather than through the Parent Council meetings.</p>	<p>Fundraising on agenda for next meeting</p> <p>AT to research how to run a 100 club</p>	<p>HT/SY</p>
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9. Date and time of next meeting	Tues 27th November, 6:30pm (Ballinluig tbc)		
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DRAFT