

**Breadalbane Academy
Parent Council
Meeting 27th November 2012
Ballinluig Community Hall**

ACTION NOTE OF MEETING

Present: Grace Llewellyn, (Pupil Council rep), Andrew Pointer, Helen Taylor, (Chair), Cllr Ian Campbell, Jason O'Flynn, Mel Nicoll, Jack Ross, Sarah Yearsley, (Clerk).

Apologies: Nigel and Fiona Lumsden, Tommy Pringle, Fiona Fletcher, Dr Armstrong, Linda Swan, Caroline Nash, Bill & Rosie Wright, Cllr Mike Williamson, Emma Gray, Karl Wright.

Agenda Item	Action Noted	Action required	Action by
1. Welcome & Apologies	Apologies as above. Welcome to Grace Llewellyn as pupil council rep.		
2. Pupil Council update	<p>Grace gave an update on Pupil Council plans. They are planning two events, one fundraiser and one awareness raiser. Also planning a survey of pupils' views. HT offered Parent Council support if needed.</p> <p>HT raised request from Mr Butter for Parent Council to pay for hoodies for trip to Poland in May 13. The group agreed but asked for costs.</p>	Confirm costs	School/Mr Butter
3. Matters arising from last meeting	<p>No 23 bus update</p> <p>HT feedback that the action group have met and that there is still appetite to pursue the issue. They are waiting for a reply from John Swinney. After that will write elsewhere. Also seeking advice from the Children's Commissioner. They have collected data about adults using the bus.</p> <p>IC reported that data from PKC Transport Unit shows that current uptake for 823 is reasonably good.</p> <p>Jason asked how much of a campaign there had been and suggested that the more parents expressing concern the more likely we would be to get a response from PKC. He has asked national parent forums to tell him what policy is around the country.</p> <p>Grace mentioned that one family have had to send one child to the Grammar and one to</p>	Carry forward onto agenda for next meeting.	HT/SY

	<p>Breadalbane because of the higher cost of the bus. We discussed various ways of improving transport for children attending after school activities.</p> <p>Gaelic teaching in P4 Parents have had an email saying the teaching will start again in January 2013.</p> <p>Jason asked if there was scope to articulate to PKC the centrality of Gaelic culture in Highland Perthshire and that neglecting Gaelic has greater significance in this area. There was concern over poor entrance to the Mod.</p> <p>We discussed the budget allocation made by the council for Gaelic teaching. IC said that this is set by government. The group felt that they needed good information including exam results, Mod results. They felt that there was a lack of support and promotion.</p> <p>Q&S Report This is work in progress and Karl hasn't had time to revise the report yet. At the Dunkeld meeting the view was that the report wasn't user friendly. The meeting felt that it shouldn't fall on the PC to revise the report. HT has looked at other schools' reports and most seemed to include a letter explaining what it was. Some reports had photos and it was felt to be a useful opportunity to showcase the good work that the school does throughout the year. IC asked for a list of what parents would like to see and he would feed it back.</p> <p>It was felt that the report lacked context to help parents to understand the statistics.</p> <p>Jason asked if we've had any feedback from parents about the Curriculum for Excellence. Has the school done adequate reach out? HT – school has put on events. Some parents still have reservations about CforE. We discussed ways for parents to communicate including Big Tent. Parent Council plans to put a hard copy letter out to parents via school bags. Important to use different communication methods to include as many people as possible.</p>	<p>Clarify with school that teaching will start again in Jan 13</p> <p>Put on agenda for 29th Jan 2013 mtg</p> <p>Ask PKC for breakdown of expenditure on Gaelic</p> <p>Take up issue with John Fyffe</p> <p>Pass on Karl's report to IC</p> <p>Put survey re parents' views on CforE on next meeting agenda</p> <p>Draft questionnaire ready for Jan 13</p>	<p>HT</p> <p>HT</p> <p>AP/IC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>HT</p> <p>HT/SY</p> <p>HT</p>
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	<p>We discussed adding a question to the Pupil Council questionnaire along the lines of “ do your parents know about the Parent Council and what it’s for?”</p> <p>Extended Learning & Achievement Visit We raised concerns over lack of space for any qualitative responses to the questionnaire. LS has said she will try to get the leader of the visit team to come to the January meeting. This was not a full HMI inspection.</p>	<p>mtg. Aim for it to go out Feb 13</p> <p>Check with LS re Jan mtg</p>	HT
4. Questions and suggestions from parents	<p>Secondary - Personal support sessions Some concern expressed by parents and pupils about this new session that takes place on Wednesday and replaces registration but takes place during the afternoon. Some pupils don’t take it seriously. Aim is to help pupils with social skills and a wider base of skills to use when leaving school. Grace reported that the Pupil Council have also expressed concerns.</p> <p>Communication The issue of communication had already come up on several occasions during the meeting. Jason raised GLOW and we discussed the roll out in PKC and at Breadalbane. The group felt that they would like more regular communication and updates from the school. There is a sign up on the front page of the website for parents to submit their email address and this seems to be a fairly efficient way for school to communicate with parents. We discussed whether the information from the school daily notices could be put into a weekly email to parents. It was felt that this would probably become unwieldy.</p> <p>School ties – a parent raised the issue of the poor quality of the school ties. Wanted to know if they could be returned to school office if faulty.</p> <p>Curriculum for Excellence – a parent asked whether PKC have any plans to follow Aberdeen City Council’s lead in reducing the number of exam subjects studied at National 4 and 5. Colin Murray has previously said that this is not an issue.</p>	<p>Feedback from school on evaluation of these sessions please</p> <p>Update on Glow</p> <p>Check with school</p> <p>Ask PKC what the policy is</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>IC</p> <p>CN/LS</p> <p>IC</p>

	<p>Smoking at school</p> <p>A parent raised the issue of pupils smoking in school grounds where they are visible to other pupils and teachers.</p> <p><i>Ian Campbell asked Linda Swan after the meeting about school policy. Linda said that under no circumstances will smoking be tolerated on school premises. She advised that anyone caught smoking is 'logged' and a letter is written advising their parents. If they are caught again then further action is taken including attendance at non smoking classes/seminars. Linda also advises that any pupil either seen by teachers or reported to the school as smoking whilst in Aberfeldy on a school day will be tasked on their return to school and action taken as above. Linda is insistent that any offenders will be challenged about their smoking behaviour though not necessarily in a 'heavy handed' way in front of other school pupils, they will, however, be challenged and action taken.</i></p>	Check smoking policy with school	LS
5. Date and time of next meeting	Tuesday 29 th January, 2013. Breadalbane Academy, Aberfeldy.	Book room	SY

Cllr Ian Campbell has followed up several of the issues we discussed at the meeting as below:

Update on Glow from Roddy Renfrew, Education Support Officer, Perth & Kinross Council

All pupils and teachers in Perth & Kinross Schools can have access to glow once they have been given usernames and passwords.

Accounts are also available for parents but they are asked to attend an introductory meeting in their school first.

The latest figures we have for Glow accounts are for October 2012 and are shown below

Parent	Pupil	Staff
6,026	24,731	4,714

Schools in Perth & Kinross are using Glow for some or all of the following purposes.

- Sharing information, celebrating success.
- As a homework resource
- To share work and ideas with other schools
- To have Glow groups for each class.
- To set up their own school website

As part of Curriculum for Excellence, pupils are using e-portfolios in Glow to record their achievements.

Secondary teachers are using Glow to store and share resources for the new SQA courses that are being introduced soon.

The situation with GLOW is that it has been a feature of development for approximately 5 years - being part of the Education Services Plan and subsequently part of school development plans; it has been showcased and training provided for at HT/DHT/PT development days and at school in-service days over this period. It has been for schools to prioritise how they each take the roll-out of GLOW forward in their establishments based on their own development priorities. All teachers and pupils can access GLOW in school and out of school by means of their unique, secure password.

Schools have used GLOW as a means of developing their websites so that it has an inward and outward face. That means some stuff can be kept in house for school only use and there is an outward facing part of the site which can be accessed via the internet more generally - i.e. by anyone looking for information about a school.

GLOW is used extensively by our team of development officers as the means of sharing good practice between schools and we are in the process of revamping and re-launching the P & K Glow website (official launch is 10 December). This revamped site will include our own CLOUD storage which can be accessed by all schools.

Two years ago we began a planned roll out of schools providing parental access to GLOW and this was supported by the then GLOW development officer, Gavin Pyott. We ran sessions for the chairs of all parent councils to attend on GLOW and its use as a parent; and Gavin also met with parent council members in schools to provide training for them.

Approximately 20-30 schools took up the opportunity of providing GLOW access to parents; again this was dependent on their own school development priorities and discussions with their respective parent councils. Once the new platform for GLOW is established we will restart offering training for parental access.

Usage of GLOW is very high in a number of schools and less so in other and this is a matter for each school to progress as they see appropriate to their context and development priorities. We now have an expectation that the administrative aspects of GLOW are undertaken at a school level and training for this has been provided. We intend to focus more, from the centre as it were, on the development of our GLOW site as a tool to support CPD for staff and learning and teaching more generally.