BREADALBANE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING 31st March 2015

PRESENT: David Ashcroft, Karen Brown, Cllr Ian Campbell, Gwen Dow, Linda Johnstone, Jane Kennedy, Elizabeth Leighton, Vicky Marshall, Fiona MacDonald (Vice Chair), Fiona MacEwan, David MacCluskey, (Depute Secondary), David McClean (teacher rep), Eleanor McNab, Caroline McNaughton, Elizabeth MacPhee, Andrew Pointer (Parent Council member), Andrew Rae, Heather Rae, Alison Smith, Alison Steele, Gill Steele, Linda Swan (Headteacher), Avril Taylor (Parent Council member), Cllr Barbara Vaughan, Jill Watson, Karl Wright (Interim Chair), Sarah Yearsley (Secretary).

Apologies: Mel Nicol, Tommy Pringle (Treasurer)

Agenda Item	Action Noted	Action required	Action By
1. Welcome &	As above		
Apologies			
2. Minutes of last	Thrift Shop volunteers needed	Let Sarah Yearsley or	All – asap
meeting and matters	Parent Council letter to John Fyffe at PKC re recruitment process for new	Karl Wright know if	
arising	headteacher. KW has written to PKC to highlight areas where correct procedure	you can help	
	was not followed in the recent recruitment of a new headteacher for BA. Cllr		
	Vaughan has also followed up with John Fyffe and his response is in train.		
	Rates of staff turnover at BA in comparison with other schools. No comparators	Seek info on staff	KW
	are available yet. Primary turnover in past year was 2 out of 8 staff. Secondary was	turnover rates	
	4.1%.		
	After School Club – Kari Gowan will come to the next Parent Council meeting to		
	discuss. Enough interest has been expressed by parents for this to be taken		
	forward. 19 children would attend.		
	All other matters arising were dealt with under items on the agenda.		
3. An update on the	John Devine, currently BA's Quality Improvement Officer (QIO), based at PKC will		
appointment of a new	become our new Headteacher/Campus Leader from August 2015. His current role		
headteacher for BA	gives him a good insight into the school and knowledge of the staff. There will be a		
	handover period during the summer term. KW said that other than with the job		
	spec issues raised at the February Parent Council meeting, he and Tommy Pringle		
	were pleased with their level of involvement in the recruitment process. AP		
	thanked KW and TP for their involvement in the process as it has been a lot of		
	work.		
4. Update on	The Wood Commission highlighted the gap between the experience of young		
'Developing Perth &	people at school and the skills they need in their working lives. There are other		

Kinross's Young Workforce' Conference from Linda Swan	pathways to skills development and there is a need for these and schools to be more joined up. This conference was an opportunity to explore how BA could programme quality work placements and bring staff up to speed with the kind of career options now on offer in the world of work. BA will start this with a business event engaging with local businesses as a core group to see how they could work with the school in offering work experience/placements. EL pointed out that the 'World of Work' website is very private sector and business orientated. It would be good to highlight third sector opportunities too. We discussed apprenticeships, changes to qualifications such as HNC and that things are changing very quickly and that rural young people have less access to local	Write something for the website	Gina Wallace
	college facilities. Changes to the curriculum are ongoing and will take time. There is a need for a parity of esteem in peoples' minds between vocational and higher education courses. It was suggested that parents look at National Parent Council online resources such as Senior Phase in a Nutshell to understand more about the changes that are		
F. Dussentation by	happening.		
5. Presentation by	Mrs Marshall has been acting Depute Head (Primary) since November 2014,		
Mrs V Marshall,	on an internal secondment until October 2015. She enjoys working at BA		
Deupte head (Primary)	and is committed to moving the school forward. The role of the Depute in a through school like BA is different from in a stand -alone Primary school.		
(Fillialy)	Mrs Marshall outlined the elements of her role, with her key focus being on		
	providing a high quality learning experience which meets the needs of all		
	pupils. She outlined that there are some staff vacancies within the Primary		
	and that BA have managed to avoid a situation experienced in some other schools where children have been sent home due to lack of staff. Mrs		
	Marshall explained how pupils are tracked and monitored in Primary. The		
	children are assessed three times a year by their teacher alongside baseline tests in Maths and English which help to give a picture of where a class may		
	need additional support on a particular area. Behaviour, Homework and		
	Effort are monitored from P1 onwards. At a recent QIO visit they were		
	pleased with progress in the Primary.		
	In the area relating to lessons looking at relationships, parenthood and		
	sexual health parents can ask to see the material to be studied. Mrs		
	Marshall would like this material to be put onto the school website.		
	Mrs Marshall explained that she has experienced difficulties in recruiting		
	enough parent volunteers to be able to take children out on trips. She is		
	enough parent volunteers to be able to take children out on trips. She is		

	get volunteers. The Primary parents present said that they are keen to help		
	and need more notice than is often given. We discussed being given notice	Pursue Primary class	
	a term in advance where possible. One parent suggested that having a	parent rep idea	Alison Steele
	parent rep for each Primary class could work well and make it easier for		
	parents to get to know each other and for the school to get volunteers		
	involved. KW asked if Alison Steele could take this idea forward.		
	One parent asked if parents could come into school every Friday afternoon		
	to see their children's work rather than just once a month. A consultation	Consult with parents	Mrs Marshall
	was undertaken with staff and it was felt that it was better to do this once a	about Friday	
	month. There has been an issue in the past with parents wanting to discuss	afternoon access,	
	issues relating to their child with the teacher rather than being shown work	possibly looking at a	
	by their child. It was agreed to revisit this with parents.	fortnightly option.	
	One parent asked if it would be possible for parents to be given teachers'		
	email addresses so that parents could contact them directly.		
	Another parent said that she finds that the school and teachers are very	Look at option of	LS
	good at getting back to her quickly when she contacts them about issues	providing parents	
	that can't be dealt with in the more public environment of the Friday	with teachers' email	
	afternoon open sessions.	addresses	
	We discussed the school report format. This is set by PKC and some parents		
	like to receive the level of detail these offer. DmC explained that the		
	Curriculum for Excellence is moving towards more narrative based		
	reporting. We discussed CAT (Cognitive Ability Testing) scores, which are		
	used to measure a young person's potential looking at areas such as spatial		
	awareness. These are done with S1s each year and offer teachers	Revisit this at next	KW/SY
	information around pupils' individual learning styles. We agreed to revisit	meeting	,5.
	some of these concerns around parents not feeling confident in	meeting	
	understanding reporting mechanisms and the levels that their child should		
	be achieving and when.		
	be defineding and when.		
6. Update on cuts	Cllr Barbara Vaughan updated the meeting on proposed changes to the	KW to continue to	
and proposed	IMS. PKC have committed that there will be no increase in tuition fees in	track developments	
changes to the	2015-16, no changes to provision of music groups and music camps and no	at PKC with support	
Instrumental Music	fees for instrumental tuition when music is taken as an exam subject. £75k	from Elizabeth	
Service, (IMS).	does need to be taken out of the IMS budget and PKC is looking at the	MacPhee??	
, (,	whole system of music tuition. In the broader context there is the possibility		

	that DVC will hive off music tuition as part of a move to trust status for	
	that PKC will hive off music tuition as part of a move to trust status for	
	cultural provision at the council. There will be a Council meeting on 13 th	
	May to discuss this and the papers will be available on 8 th May so there will	
	be time for the PC to comment on the papers if necessary. One parent	
	asked if there is a danger of tutors not being replaced if they leave. BV was	
	unable to give an assurance on this. She pointed out that she and Cllr	
	Campbell did not vote for the budget cut for the IMS. The savings within the	
	IMS will not be made on frontline costs. PKC is undertaking an online survey	
	and parents are encouraged to participate. It was suggested that we could	
	invite Councillors from the administration to discuss these changes.	
7. Update from the	Libby gave an update on the fundraising group which is being led by Emma	
funding committee	Burtles. 6 parents have met and would like to support the school to raise	
	funds. They are keen to find out how the school fund and Parent Council	
	funds are distributed. Fundraising ideas they have discussed already	
	include:	Contact Emma
	BBQ	Burtles to get
	Family Pub Quiz – arrangements are underway	involved in
	Summer Fair	fundraising
	Christmas Fair	committee
	Support the existing 50/50 Club	
	They plan to set up a fundraising email account. They are keen to have	
	more input from parents and would like to email teachers to see what they	
	would like funding support for.	
	Thrift Shop – 19 – 25 th April. Volunteers are still needed.	
	LS explained that the school fund exists to support activities which enhance	
	learning. She discussed the lower uptake of places on the P7 Lochgoilhead	
	trip and how the school can support parents financially if they need it. This	
	is done confidentially.	Contact Tommy
	£3000 funding towards a project to support STEM subjects learning	Pringle if you can
	(Science, technology, maths) has been agreed by the school fund – this will	help
	support the purchase of a Formula 24 single electric motor car to be built by	.
	pupils from 3 rd year onwards in secondary. The school aspire to do	
	something similar in upper primary with a project called Formula Goblin but	
	would need parents to step up to support this. The cars can be reused and	
	refined over the years and offer great opportunities to support learning in	
	STEM subjects but also in cross-curricular learning. Andrew Rae agreed to	Seek volunteers to
	1	333 73141116313 63

ways of studying, parents suggested that an information evening on applying to university would be useful. Elizabeth Leighton has put together a programme for this session which will be a partnership event between the Parent Council and the school, with support from the school's support teachers. We agreed that the evening should be open to young people and it will take place on Tuesday 5 th May at 6.30pm. We agreed that we should look at apprenticeships and vocational learning on another occasion. 9. Clarification on BA's policy on mobile phone use in secondary 9. Clarification on BA's policy on mobile phone use in secondary 9. Clarification on BA's policy on mobile phone use in secondary 9. Clarification on BA's policy on mobile phone sin class when they shouldn't have been. LS said that BA has a very clear policy which ensures that phones are used appropriately and reflects the way that young people are using mobile devices now. Mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight unless the teacher has made it clear that they can be used as a learning aid. Teachers are very clear that phones will be taken away if they are used inappropriately. Taking video footage in a classroom unless as part of the lesson is a serious breach of the school's policy. If parents are concerned about this approach they should contact the school. Parents are asked not to text their children during the school day as this can be distracting. A parent asked what happens if a pupil doesn't own a smart phone. In this case the school have enough other technology such as lpads for pupils to use. One parent said that she thought this was a wonderful and enlightened policy. We agreed that any parents with serious concerns who felt unable to raise this with the school themselves could talk to KW.				
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Community Sergeant Caroline McNaughton, who is based at Pitlochry, and			the ground	
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has children at Breadalbane, attended part of the meeting. Parents can contact her by email if they need to, carolinemcnaughton@scotland.pnu.police.uk		
The next meeting is Wednesday 29 th April 2015 6.30pm at Breadalbane		
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