

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 & Apologies	As above		
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	<p>Thrift Shop volunteers needed</p> <p>Parent Council letter to John Fyffe at PKC re recruitment process for new headteacher. KW has written to PKC to highlight areas where correct procedure 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.</p> <p>Rates of staff turnover at BA in comparison with other schools. No comparators are available yet. Primary turnover in past year was 2 out of 8 staff. Secondary was 4.1%.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All other matters arising were dealt with under items on the agenda.</p>	<p>Let Sarah Yearsley or Karl Wright know if you can help</p> <p>Seek info on staff turnover rates</p>	<p>All – asap</p> <p>KW</p>
3. An update on the appointment of a new headteacher for BA	<p>John Devine, currently BA's Quality Improvement Officer (QIO), based at PKC will become our new Headteacher/Campus Leader from August 2015. His current role 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.</p>		
4. Update on 'Developing Perth &	The Wood Commission highlighted the gap between the experience of young people at school and the skills they need in their working lives. There are other		

Kinross's Young Workforce' Conference from Linda Swan	<p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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 happening.</p>	<p>Write something for the website</p>	<p>Gina Wallace</p>
5. Presentation by Mrs V Marshall, Depute head (Primary)	<p>Mrs Marshall has been acting Depute Head (Primary) since November 2014, on an internal secondment until October 2015. She enjoys working at BA 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. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mrs Marshall explained that she has experienced difficulties in recruiting enough parent volunteers to be able to take children out on trips. She is</p>		

	<p>grateful for the support the school receives anyway but they can struggle to 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 a term in advance where possible. One parent suggested that having a 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.</p> <p>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 was undertaken with staff and it was felt that it was better to do this once a month. There has been an issue in the past with parents wanting to discuss issues relating to their child with the teacher rather than being shown work by their child. It was agreed to revisit this with parents.</p> <p>One parent asked if it would be possible for parents to be given teachers' email addresses so that parents could contact them directly.</p> <p>Another parent said that she finds that the school and teachers are very good at getting back to her quickly when she contacts them about issues that can't be dealt with in the more public environment of the Friday afternoon open sessions.</p> <p>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 information around pupils' individual learning styles. We agreed to revisit some of these concerns around parents not feeling confident in understanding reporting mechanisms and the levels that their child should be achieving and when.</p>	<p>Pursue Primary class parent rep idea</p> <p>Consult with parents about Friday afternoon access, possibly looking at a fortnightly option.</p> <p>Look at option of providing parents with teachers' email addresses</p> <p>Revisit this at next meeting</p>	<p>Alison Steele</p> <p>Mrs Marshall</p> <p>LS</p> <p>KW/SY</p>
<p>6. Update on cuts and proposed changes to the Instrumental Music Service, (IMS).</p>	<p>Cllr Barbara Vaughan updated the meeting on proposed changes to the IMS. PKC have committed that there will be no increase in tuition fees in 2015-16, no changes to provision of music groups and music camps and no fees for instrumental tuition when music is taken as an exam subject. £75k does need to be taken out of the IMS budget and PKC is looking at the whole system of music tuition. In the broader context there is the possibility</p>	<p>KW to continue to track developments at PKC with support from Elizabeth MacPhee??</p>	

	<p>help if he can find a suitable time. The Parent Council agreed to help with fundraising towards the Formula Goblin project once we know about what is needed. Suggestions for funding sources included SSE/Griffin windfarm. One parent asked if each class could have an activity/trip per school year. LS explained that they do all receive this kind of opportunity already.</p>	support Formula Goblin project in primary.	
<p>8. Update on proposed information evening on applying for university from Elizabeth Leighton</p>	<p>Following recent discussions about changes to Senior Phase choices and 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 5th May at 6.30pm. We agreed that we should look at apprenticeships and vocational learning on another occasion.</p>	Please contact Elizabeth Leighton with suggestions	
<p>9. Clarification on BA's policy on mobile phone use in secondary</p>	<p>A parent raised concerns that he had heard that secondary pupils were texting and using mobile phones in 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 Ipads for pupils to use. One parent said that she thought this was a wonderful and enlightened policy.</p> <p>We agreed that any parents with serious concerns who felt unable to raise this with the school themselves could talk to KW.</p>		
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Bike Station-led maintenance course – this course is three months late getting off the ground.</p> <p>Community Sergeant Caroline McNaughton, who is based at Pitlochry, and</p>	<p>Contact Bike Station to get this course off the ground</p>	<p>LS</p>

	has children at Breadalbane, attended part of the meeting. Parents can contact her by email if they need to, carolinemcnaughton@scotland.pnu.police.uk		
Next Meeting	The next meeting is Wednesday 29 th April 2015 6.30pm at Breadalbane Community Campus. All welcome.		