

BREADALBANE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MEETING 28th May 2015

Present: Karen Brown, Emma Burtles, Alistair Cameron, (Gaelic Development Officer, PKC), Cllr Ian Campbell, John Devine, Libby Hughes, Elizabeth Leighton, Fiona MacEwan, Sandra MacKinnon, Elizabeth MacPhee, Vicky Marshall, David McClean, Mel Nicol, Vicky Marshall, Andrew Pointer, Tom Pringle, (Treasurer), Stuart Simpson, Alison Steele, Gill Steele, Linda Swan, Avril Taylor, Richard Taylor, Cllr Barbara Vaughan, Karl Wright, (Chair), Sarah Yearsley, (Clerk to the Parent Council)

Apologies: David MacCluskey, Margaret Quigley, Sally Robertson.

Agenda Item	Action Noted	Action required	Action By
1. Welcome & Apologies	Linda Swan introduced John Devine who will become the new Headteacher and Campus Leader at Breadalbane Academy from August 2015. He will be shadowing Linda during June to ensure a smooth transition when he takes over.		
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	<p>Two Deputy Headteacher posts are being advertised – the Primary role and the Secondary role to replace David MacCluskey who is leaving for a new job at Crieff High School. Interviews will be held before the end of term with the aim of new staff starting in August. Two members of the Parent Council, or representatives of the wider Parent Forum (all parents of children at the school are members of the Parent Forum) will sit on each interview panel.</p> <p>Vicky Marshall gave an update on Primary School trips: Gaelic class have been to Kelvingrove P1/2, 2/3 and 3/4 are going to Active Kid 4/5, 5/6 and 6/7 are going to Blair Drummond P7 have been to Lochgoilhead P6/7 are taking part in Activities Week for the first time this year. Where children raised money towards school trips last year this money is being used towards their school trips this year.</p>	Contact KW if you have any comments on the recruitment process.	
3. Presentation by Comann nam Pàrant on Gaelic Medium	Gill Steele, Chair of the Gaelic parents group, which is a constituted group, acting as an interface between parents and the school, introduced Alistair Cameron, who is the temporary Gaelic Officer at PKC. Alistair spoke about the amazing growth in		

<p>Education from Alistair Cameron, Gaelic Development Officer at PKC.</p>	<p>Gaelic learning over the past few years. There are well documented benefits for children and their learning from bilingualism and Gaelic Medium Education, GME , is an educational success story. Pupil numbers studying through GME are increasing and achieving top exam results. There are spin off benefits to the community which should be celebrated. In 1985 24 children were studying through GME and this has risen to 4000 this year in Scotland. Numbers are expected to increase further. There are over 500 children studying through GME in Edinburgh. Across the country there are 60 primary schools offering GME and 14 local authorities. Typically children studying in GME units don't have Gaelic as a first language. The approach offers total language immersion in P1 – 3 to establish reading and writing before introducing English. The language of the classroom is Gaelic. Gaelic is part of the heritage of the Breadalbane area and the hope is that numbers will continue to grown. We are still in the early stages at Breadalbane with the oldest children studying in P4. The hope is to be able to offer Gaelic in secondary but this is a longer term aim. PKC are committed to GME. Early years are key and parent and toddler groups are important. In future the hope is that Gaelic speaking teachers will be recruited to secondary roles. There are 10 children currently studying in the GME unit.</p> <p>One parent suggested that a survey of parents could be undertaken to get feedback on how the programme has worked in Gaelic. 20 trained Gaelic teachers are graduating per year. There is a concern that demand is outstripping supply. Andrew Pointer asked that the Parent Council thank Tommy Pringle for his work in the first instance in initiating the setting up of GME at Breadalbane Academy. One parent was concerned that whilst so much energy has been focused on GME the take up of Modern Languages is falling as a result of the narrowing of subject choices at National 5. It was suggested that we focus on Modern Languages at a future meeting.</p>		
<p>4. Approval of the minutes of last year's AGM</p>	<p>The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.</p>		
<p>5. Chair's report & Treasurer's report.</p>	<p>KW gave a report on Parent Council Activity since he took over as Interim Chair in February 2015. KARL CAN YOU SUPPLY A COPY OF YOUR REPORT TO INCLUDE HERE??</p> <p>TP reported on the Parent Council's Accounts. The accounting year runs</p>	<p>Arrange new signatories for bank account</p>	<p>TP</p>

	<p>from April to March. On 31st March 2015 there was £3274 in the Parent Council Account. The PKC grant to the Parent Council was £826. Other recent income has included the Thrift Shop at £849.95, of which £350 has been given to the 6th Year for their Prom. At 1st May 2015 there was £1,359.46 in the Friends Account and £4,124.31 in the Parent Council account. Income from the 50/50 club goes into the Friends of Breadalbane Academy account and this is the account used if we apply for grant funding. We need new signatories for the bank account.</p>		
<p>6..Update from Parent Council groups & projects (FOG, ASN, parent reps etc.).</p>	<p>Emma Burtles gave an update from FOG – the fundraising group. A letter was sent to all staff asking them to submit applications for funding. We had a discussion about how the mechanisms around deciding how funding would be allocated would work. This included a discussion around whether to support individual pupils, to compete in sport at a national level for example. The general feeling was that this wouldn't be appropriate. LS pointed out that the school fund may be able to support pupils in this way. We agreed a process whereby Emma would email to seek approval for grants. Needs clarifying?</p> <p>Alison Steele updated on parent reps in primary. She needs 9 and has 8 so far. They are planning their first meeting for the following week with Miss Marshall. From now on the reps hope to be able to offer extra help in the primary. She hopes that parents will carry on as reps in the next school year.</p> <p>The first meeting of the support group re Additional Support Needs was attended by 10 people and was felt to be a very useful and informative session. The next session is on 19th June in the Black Watch. John Devine will be invited to the first meeting of the new term. Thanks to Jane Carmichael for setting up this group and arranging the meeting. An issue regarding paying to use the Sensory Room at school was raised.</p>	<p>Invite JD to ASN group mtg</p>	<p>Jane Carmichael</p>
<p>7. Election of office holders and agree dates for next year's meetings</p>	<p>Karl Wright stood again as Chair. He was proposed by Linda Swan and seconded by Mel Nicol and duly elected. We did not elect a Vice Chair and agreed to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a new Vice Chair in the new school term after August. Tommy Pringle agreed to stand again</p>		

	as Treasurer. KW proposed him and Andy Pointer seconded him.		
8. July 1st Family Fun Day at Ailean Chraggan	The first end of term family fun day, organised by FOG, will take place aon 1 st July, 4.30 – 6. 30pm. There will be a BBQ and games at the Chraggs hotel. Information has gone out to everyone, baking and raffle donations are needed.		
9. Proposed goals and projects for 2015/16	This was held over until the next meeting as we were running late. Parents were encouraged to feedback to KW by email. LS commented that she was pleased to see renewed interest in the Parent Council and that she felt it would go from strength to strength. She thanked everyone for their interest in their children's education.		
10. Planned 2015/16 communications survey	We agreed to make communication a priority for 2015/16 and the PC will work with John Devine to improve this. Avril Taylor and Elizabeth Leighton have offered to work on communication and the PC will set up a sub group to work on this and seek out examples of good practice elsewhere. Mel Nicol reported that the updates in the local free newsletter, in Dunkeld, The Bridge, had been welcome. Emma Burtles commented that the timing of communication from school is key – information often comes out very late. Parents commented that it would be very useful to have a list of all the school trip opportunities for the new school year as early as possible in the year to help with planning and saving up to pay for trips. School website – there is no email address under 'contact' on the website. Signage – there is no sign saying the school name. Other areas of concern regarding communication from school were around information provided about subject choices in secondary, inaccuracies in information supplied, and not knowing who to approach at school if parents need information. A parent asked if guidance teachers' emails could be made available.	Put on agenda for August 2015 mtg	SY/KW
11. University admissions evening – feedback and Evaluation	This events was very positively received. The range of speakers was appreciated. Lessons learned included around 'stage management', we underestimated the number of people who would attend – around 80. Andrea Cox has volunteered to organise a similar evening looking at vocational choices for further education and training. KW offered the		

	meeting's thanks to Elizabeth Leighton for organising a very useful and successful evening.		
12. Change to PC constitution (to make it easier to be a member)	We agreed to make the system clearer and easier for parents to be members of the Parent Council and therefore vote at meetings. All parents/guardians/carers of children at Breadalbane Academy are members of the Parent Forum and can attend PC meetings. We agreed to change the PC constitution to allow parents/guardians/carers to have voting rights at meetings. Parents will need to notify the PC if they wish to become a member.	Update the constitution Notify Sarah Yearsley if you wish to become a member of the Parent Council	KW ALL
13. AOCB	A parent asked if it would be possible to have a list of what the children in primary are working on. We agreed to order tea and coffee for future PC meetings	Order tea and coffee for meetings	SY
14. Date and time of next meeting	We agreed to finalise future meeting dates at the first meeting of the new term. Meetings are likely to remain on the last Tuesday or Wednesday of each month. We will look at holding meetings in other locations again as we did a few years ago.		