



Breadalbane Parent Council Meeting (the 'Meeting')

Location: ICT Rooms, Breadalbane Academy

Date: Wednesday 3 October 2018

Present

Vicky Marshall (VM) Depute Head Teacher, Primary

Eleanor Laurie (EL) Co-Chair of Parent Council

Lyndsey Hurley (LH) Co-Chair of Parent Council

Julie Sanderson (JS) PT Business & IT

Gill Steele (GS) Playgroup and Gaelic Education

Parents and carers:

Janet Stott, Andrew Pointer, Karl Wright, Avril Taylor, Emma McCluskey, Kevin McCaughey, Claire Dimmock, Jemma Dobson, Fraser Coleman, Gillian Buttar

Apologies

John Devine (JD) Headteacher / Campus Leader

Libby Hughes (LH) Fundraising

Mike Williamson, Councillor

John Duff, Councillor

Tommy Pringle, Treasurer

Parents: Gwen Dow, Mairi McAdam

Welcome & Apologies

EL welcomed everyone to the Meeting and there were introductions around the table. Apologies had been received as detailed above.

Headteachers Report

VM presented the Headteachers Report as JD was absent.

The school had received an Extended Learning and Achievement Visit (ELAV) earlier in the year and VM reported that the report would be published on Friday 5 October. VM shared highlights from the report which included recognition of outstanding STEM work and a clear ambition and vision for the direction of school improvement. The report identified areas for development in the 18-19 academic year and VM reported that these were already incorporated in the school improvement plan.

It was reported that, as part of Perth & Kinross Council's School Estate Transformation Programme, a consultation regarding the future of Pitlochry High School (PHS) was in

progress. A number of options were being considered, some of which would increase intake at Breadalbane Academy in Senior years. VM advised that the parent council would be approached for views and a number of those present at the Meeting expressed a willingness to contribute. The consultation had been reported in the local media and AP reported that the recent PHS parent council meeting had been well attended. AP **agreed** to provide an update at the next Meeting on 20 November 2018 which would have a Senior school focus.

VM reported that the exam results in the 17-18 academic year were the best on record and Tim Woodcock would present a fuller overview at the next Meeting in November.

VM reported that staffing changes would be published in the school newsletter on Friday 5 October.

EL thanked VM for her updates.

Technology Use in School

JS presented to the Meeting details of a project to recognise Breadalbane Academy as a Digital School. If successful, the school would receive a nationally recognised award demonstrating digital excellence and innovation in education. JS reported that it was a 3-step programme of registration, self-assessment and consultation. JS had commenced self-assessment stage and would shortly visit schools in the area that had achieved the award to assess best practice.

The presentation was well received. KW sought to understand whether pupils would be engaged on such a project and how its success would be measured. JS reported that the school was continuously developing its digital strategy and a number of successes had already been seen throughout the school through digital technology integration in the curriculum and in communications. Views of pupil council had been sought on future initiatives. Further updates would be provided as and when appropriate.

CD raised concerns about the permissible use of personal mobile phones and tablets in P7 golden time. This was discussed widely, alongside discussion of the current Mobile Device Policy (the 'Policy'). In a whole school context, a number of parents expressed concerns that phones were known to be accessed for personal use during classroom time, also incidents of photographs being taken. VM reported that any identified incidents were treating in accordance with the Policy. A number of parents present expressed a desire for personal mobile phones to be banned in Primary school. VM reported that phones were often provided for safe travel assurance and the views of pupils should be taken into account. It was suggested that phones should be handed in at the start of the day. It was discussed that a parent, pupil and teacher opinion poll might be delivered to gauge views on the use of personal mobile phones during Golden Time.

Anti-social behaviour and bullying – preventative measures

EL reported that positive improvements in actions against bullying had been noted by a parent. This parent had suggested that a mentor system be introduced for children that had suffered from bullying and VM had **agreed** to this approach.

VM reported that the playing of football in the P4-7 playground had created some incidents and the teaching staff had met with pupils this week to set rules to improve behaviours. This had been positively received by the pupils.

Road Safety

VM provided an update on the actions taken by the school and travel company after a recent road traffic accident in Camserney involving a senior pupil departing from a school bus. The school business manager had travelled on the bus route immediately after the event to provide reassurance to any anxious children and observe drop off procedures. The bus drop-off points had now been altered so that children would not have to cross the road after drop off. All present at the Meeting agreed that this was a great improvement that should be communicated to parents. EM asked whether all bus routes had been similarly observed. VM **agreed** to report back on this matter.

EL reported that the parent council were seeking to support national Road Safety Week and had proposed a number of initiatives to be delivered to pupils in November. EL reported that a meeting would be held at the end of the month to confirm plans and updates would be communicated via the parent council communication channels. The parent council had linked in with the Community Council on this matter.

Parent Council Events

EL reported that the end of term event on campus had raised around £2,800 and been well received by the wider community. Those present, that had attended, **agreed** that it was a great success and requested that it be repeated annually.

LH provided an update on events planned during the year. This first of which would be a Halloween party for Primary pupils in November. This will be a joint event provided by parent council, the library and Live Active. Offers of help had been received and LH thanked those present for their support. It was raised that an end of Primary event would be well received and EL and LH agreed to consider this further.

Auditor

TL reported that TP had requested approval to seek a new auditor that supported on-line banking. Those present **agreed** to this request.

Playground update

GS provided an update on the P4-P7 playground development plans and presented the designs. GS reported that there were some pricing and contractual issues to overcome, mainly due to the campus being built and maintained through a Private Finance Initiative contract. The cost of the playground development had to be life cycled which effectively tripled the cost. The playground team were working with JD, MITIE and the local council to

find an acceptable outcome for all. Current projections were that the delivery cost would be in the region of £120k. GS reported that fund raising efforts, driven by Gina Wallace had raised £55k and applications were in progress for a further £90k. The outcome of these applications would be known in October 2018 and the team would then provide an update. A number of parents enquired how they could assist in fundraising efforts. El thanked those involved for their time and achievements to date.

ASN

There was no report on ASN matters provided to the meeting.

Gaelic

AP understood that the first P7 to S1 pupil transition was known to have been well supported.

GS asked about the provision of pupil support assistants (PSA) as it was understood that the number available in the primary school had decreased due to budget cuts. VM confirmed that overall, the school PSA provision had decreased -as many PSA work part-time this was considered in terms of total hours provided and VM reported that it was equivalent to a reduction of one PSA . However, VM reported that the primary school benefitted from access to PSAs that support both secondary and primary teaching.

It was raised that the local MSP John Swinney had reported that the school had received considerable funds for the use of support. VM **agreed** to seek further clarification on this matter and report back at the November Meeting.

A.O.B

EL reported that parents had requested information on mobile phone use at the Enchanted Forest trip, paperless communication and consent forms, hazard prevention in winter months, playground/canteen supervision and reinforcement of drop-off procedure in primary. This would be discussed with VM and / or JD separately and communications issued accordingly.

AP and KW reported that the Scottish government was supportive of detailed guidance on how to support transgender pupils in school drawn up by the charity LGBT Youth Scotland and queried whether Perth & Kinross Council had issued guidance. VM **agreed** to discuss this matter further with John Devine and report back at the Senior school meeting in November.

Close

The meeting closed at 8.12. EL thanked all attendees for their support and contributions.

Distribution:

John Devine, Vicky Marshall, Donna Jenkins

Eleanor Laurie and Lyndsey Hurley

PC website

School website