

Meeting:	Breadalbane Academy Parent Council (BAPC)
Date & Time:	Thursday 23 February 2023 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Location:	Meeting held online, via Microsoft Teams
Attendance:	Karl Wright (outgoing acting chair), Rob Stubbs (incoming chair), Eleanor Laurie, Jill Watson, Andy Pointer, Emma Burtles, Jeannie Grant, John Devine, Vicky Marshall.
Apologies:	Emma Burtles (but she turned up halfway through)

Item		Action
1.	<u>Welcome, introductions and Apologies.</u>	
2.	<u>Matters Arising from January 2023 meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karl Wright — £500 grant to school for ski trip. As the minutes from the previous meetings are overdue, Karl — the outgoing acting chair, asked the meeting to restate its willingness to pay £500 to help offset the cost of the skit trip to parents. The meeting agreed to this request. This means we can pay the school immediately. Eleanor Laurie — can the school please publicise that this is part-funded by the school. John agrees. Andy Pointer — on the subject of school trips, Andy thanks the school and teachers involved in the CERN trip. 	Give the school £500
3.	<u>Election of new chair</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob Stubb says he is willing to stand as chair. Karl proposed. El seconded. No one else wished to stand. No one objected Rob was elected chair. 	
4.	<u>Headteacher's report (John Devine)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Devine thanks Karl on behalf of school. Staffing — one new PSE in the secondary but otherwise no updates. Recently had a staffing meeting with PKC (always happens at this time of year). The school roll is stable, so no staffing changes are expected. But PKC budget is on 1 March. Nothing is definite until then. In particular, the school is waiting to see if it can carry forward unspent budget. There have been talks about this being changed but it looks hopeful that it won't be. Restates that newsletter is always available to the parent council, to publicise its activities. The next edition will be edited jointly by the school, parent council and pupil council. CERN trip — nice to get a foreign trip off the ground post-COVID. Thanks to Mr Mair, Mrs Cooper and Mr Thompson from the science department. Closing the gap — school is thinking in advance how it funds trips and what trips it puts on, so that all pupils can take part. What happens when school transport can't get through? This has happened a couple of times in the last few years. In this situation, the school may ask parents to help but will never stop working to get pupils home until all pupils are safely home. John has sent a letter to parents about this. Andy queries why the school can't check the relevant roadside cameras and make an independent judgement. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John — we do. But the difficult situation is when the weather closes in on the day. School has to liaise with transport authorities. But isn't in a position to make a health and safety judgement independently about roads. This is not something school staff are able to do. Andy raises issue of staff missing days because of travel. Says they should be responsible for getting in, even in extreme weather. John says staff absences due to poor weather are rare. Eleanor updates the meeting on the grant she has put in to Basil Death for £3,000 which, if we win the money, will go to the transport fund. 	
5.	<p><u>Update on teacher industrial action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Devine — this is having a huge impact on the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Scottish teachers belong to the EIS The EIS and other unions have held several national strikes as part of the current pay dispute with the Scottish Government. The EIS is so dominant that when it strikes, even if no other unions do, it often shuts down schools. The EIS has a mandate from members, which runs out in April, to hold national strikes. But now the EIS is targeting schools in the constituencies of key decision makers. We are in John Swinney's constituency, so we are targeted. This targeted action takes the form of a local strike lasting three days in a row. There is another three-day strike the week after next. This is on top of the national strikes. Over the next few weeks we will lose 8 out of 15 days, in the run-up period to exams. The Scottish Government did make an offer to teachers. The EIS did not ballot its members on that. One union has agreed to take the offer. The EIS has not, at least yet. The EIS did not ballot on the targeted action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy — not happy about this. Karl — expressed general support for teachers striking for living wage but says this wave of targeted strikes, further disadvantaging only some kids, runs against any equity statements the EIS has ever made. Asked if BAPC can send a letter to the EIS. Rob (chair) — agreed in principle for BAPC to send a letter. Andy asks what PKC is doing about this? John — not much comfort he can give. SQA can't easily make allowance for this when it only a small number of schools targeted in this way. He did write to David McCluskey, PKC Services Manager (Secondary Education), on 10 February asking for leniency on SQA collection dates for portfolios etc. The strikes have caused some subjects to really struggle with this. This is also a question of equity in exam performance. Has asked David McCluskey what can be done about this? 	Chair to write to EIS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andy — will advise daughter to write on exam saying that she has not been taught a subject due to the strikes. ▪ Eleanor — if the strikes are cancelled, when will parents find out. ▪ John — we're probably already passed the point of no return. Unless we hear otherwise by lunchtime tomorrow the school will be shut. 	
6.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicky Marshall — update on some points she had to follow-up on from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What trips do teachers want BAPC to help fund? ○ No or low-cost option — options such as Pitlochry dam, Faskally woods, Castle Menzies. ○ More cost — museums in Edinburgh, beach in Fife. Increased transport cost but free when you get there. ○ Max cost — Active Kids, Blair Drummond Safari Park • Vicky, Mairi McAdam and Active Schools Co-ordinator will meet next week to discuss swimming provision. • Puddings running out in dining centre — there is always enough fruit but the school will rotate the order in which kids go to get the deserts, so it isn't always the same kids who get the cakes and other sweet things. • Eleanor — updates the meeting on BAPC plans to train volunteer mini-bus drivers, to help cut the costs of trips. • John — has Vicky told the kids about the new pudding arrangements. • Vicky — yes, she has told the child whom the issue most affected. But she will also tell the pupils at the next assembly. 	
7.	<p><u>Time & date of next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30pm, Tuesday 28 March, 2023 	