



## Brechin High School Parent Council

### Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Attendees: Pat Yates (PY) (Chair), Archie Bathgate (AB) (Head Teacher), Patrick Ford (PF), Kirstin Hoggins (KH), Alex Colquhoun (AC), Alison Reid (AR), Lynne Rule (LR), Jo Keith (JK), Kay Cameron (KC), John Hood (JH), Iryna Ewart (IE), Shona Seaman (SS), Susan Scorgie (SuS), Paula Spence (PS), Corinna Gow.

Apologies: Karen Brown and Lyndsay Gray

1) Chairperson's Welcome and Apologies	Who	When
Pat welcomed all those present to the meeting.	P Yates	18.48

2) Minutes of PC Meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Matters Arising	Who	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PY reported, from a parent's point of view, that the on-line booking system for his son's Parent/Teacher meeting had worked well. AB said that the feedback he had received had all been positive</li> <li>Parental Engagement event did not take place due to lack of support.</li> <li>Remembrance Service – KC asked why the school was not represented. AB replied that no invitation has been received by the school. AB will ensure that the school is included in the service in 2017.</li> <li>PY reported that there will be a Parent Council Representatives meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February in Forfar which Pat will attend. The meeting is open to others. Any concerns to be raised should be sent to PY and he will get them added to the Agenda.</li> <li>Ref forthcoming change to 33 period week, AB confirmed that the current teaching timetable will remain until the end of the school year as bus contracts are in place.</li> <li>PY asked when Year 4 would make their subject choices. AB said this is in progress. Course choice booklet for 16/17 is on website – AB will have 17/18 booklet added.</li> <li>The minutes were proposed by Kay Cameron and seconded by Alison Reid</li> </ul>	<p>A Bathgate</p> <p>All</p> <p>A Bathgate</p>	18.50

3) Literacy	Who	When
<p>Mr Colquhoun introduced himself as an English Teacher at BHS with timetabled research periods enabling him look at literacy and numeracy levels across the school. His presentation (attached) explained the need to find an explanation for the increasing decline in attainment levels of children in both literacy and numeracy over the last 10 years and the research process to achieve this.</p> <p>Mr Colquhoun invited a PC member to join a discussion group: both Pat Yates and Shona Seaman volunteered and will attend their next meeting.</p>	A Colquhoun	18.58



## Brechin High School Parent Council

4) Update on 'Raising Achievement' activities	Who	When
<p>Lyndsay Gray unable to attend the meeting. AB will ask her to produce an update to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>PY reported positive feedback on the Study Forum on methods of revision, although it was difficult to hear some of the soft spoken voices and the suggestion was made that a microphone be used at future gatherings.</p>	A Bathgate	19.21

5) Head Teacher's update	Who	When
<p>AB gave an update on staff changes this term. Helen Gove ASN retired in early January with Kirsten Webster taking up the post on 24<sup>th</sup> January. BHS has a good ratio of ASN staff. A change to the ASN rota has been made whereby Mrs Webster moves around the classes rather than children going to her classroom.</p> <p>Mrs McCrery returned from maternity leave.</p> <p>Mrs O'Neil will leave on 4th March – the position has been advertised.</p> <p>Miss Berry (Physics) has resigned. The position was advertised but no applications received. It has been re-advertised as a Maths position. AB will know shortly if there have been applications for the job.</p> <p>The pilot scheme using 60 Chrome Books with four senior classes (Biology and English) is ongoing. AB has received permission to buy each pupil a machine and he is in discussion on the type of Chrome Book that is best suited to pupil needs. The books are used in conjunction with PC's as Chrome Book is not as capable as a PC. The Education Application is by Google with ACER being the device in use. Storage of information and work is on Globe Cloud. After trials in other schools of other devices, Chrome Books have been the most successful. Stirling High School now has a requirement that prospective staff have achieved Google Level 1 on this system.</p> <p>Mrs Black is involved in a research project with Dr Hamish Greig using Chrome Books.</p> <p>The Construction Training Centre scheduled to be finished by 13<sup>th</sup> March. AB is in discussion with Maureen Douglas of Forester Roofing, looking to see what courses can be run for pupils. Some courses will be linked to employment. Civil Engineering apprenticeships with Aberdeen and Dundee universities are being investigated. It is hoped that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils will start courses in August. Design Engineering Construction, starting in Technology Class, will be partnered with a business and move on to construction training.</p> <p>HMIE inspection update. The inspectors will return to the school in twelve months. AB received their draft report and asked for amendments to be made with this being agree by telephone. A letter of confirmation must be received by AB prior to parents and staff being informed of the findings.</p> <p>Inspectors reported that there was no bad teaching but that teaching was not consistently good enough. Action is being taken to rectify this. Concern expressed on attainment levels of pupils.</p> <p>Economic Development - discussion on expanding into nutrition with AB looking to allow use of the kitchen so long as the school gets something in return.</p>	A Bathgate	19.23



## Brechin High School Parent Council

6) ASN Parent Forum	Who	When
Next ASN Parent Forum meeting will be held on 2nd March at 6.30pm at Brechin High School to which all are invited.	P Ford	19.40

7) Update on Good Food Nation	Who	When
<p>KH reported on the follow up meeting with Ann Thomson on 17<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>Ann had ideas that are outwith the school's ability to introduce. School meals are provided under contract with the contractor being responsible for purchase of ingredients, working to their own budget. The use of local produce would be the ideal, should funding allow, but this is not the case.</p> <p>KH will use the Angus Council Survey Monkey to ask parents if they want advice on cooking from scratch, cookery classes for parent with child, the suggested age of children involved.</p> <p>KH suggested that learning to cook alongside a parent would be successful within the Primary cluster but not within the senior school. It is easier to influence primary age groups on nutrition and eating habits than it is to do with older children.</p> <p>AB very happy should the School's catering facilities be used by groups and primary schools as it is known that nutrition is an important element of learning and life.</p> <p>SS reported that cookery classes has been discussed at Maisondieu. Further thought is needed but the idea will be taken further.</p> <p>It was agreed that support should be given to the basic ideas put forward by Ann but, without funding, not all the aims set out could be fulfilled.</p>	K Hoggins	19.42

8) AOB	Who	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements for 2017 Prom discussed. AB will pass on the on, to the pupil head team, the views of the Parent Council regarding venue, catering, decoration, attendees and communication with leavers.</li> <li>• Suggestion made that a pupil representative (Head Boy/Girl or Deputy Head Boy/Girl) attend part of PC meetings, reporting on any views/concerns they may have and projects that the seniors are involved with.</li> <li>• Invitation to be made to the group going to Rowanda to do a presentation on their proposed trip.</li> <li>• PS said that the recent school ski strip to Austria had been a great success.</li> </ul>	<p>A Bathgate</p> <p>A Bathgate</p> <p>A Bathgate</p>	19.55

9) Date of Next Meeting and close of meeting	Who	When
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2017		20.38