

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Rachel Bhandari

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

Minutes of Braidburn Parent Council

Date of Meeting 02 Sept 2019

1. Welcome and Apologies

RB welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received from LF and EF.

2. Chairperson's Address

LF commented that it has been great to have the continued support and attendance from parents and carers and have we have welcomed some new people along to our meetings. LF thanked everybody for their continued support.

3. Approval of minutes for 2018 AGM

The previous minutes were reviewed. The topic of using web-based technology to allow people who could not physically attend the meeting was revisited, however, in light of poor Wi Fi connection in the school, privacy issues and GDPR, it was decided that we should not pursue this further.

4. Achievements 2018/2019

In the 2018/2019 session we have funded the family Ceilidh catering, supported the school to get a transport coordinator, supported interviews for Depute Head post, supported parent drop ins and attended meetings such as the Special Schools City Wide meetings.

5. Aims 2019/2020

Going forward we aim to consider the challenges relating to future cuts to funding and how this may affect our families, e.g. transport cuts and ensuring we support the school to ensure we have enough staff and resources to support the increased numbers and more varied needs.

CW asked if the Parent Council could also take on the task of recruiting parents and carers to contribute to family learning and parental engagement by asking them what skills, interests and hobbies they have that they could share with learners and staff. The Parent Council could create a database of interested parents and carers and their availability to come into the school and share their skills. It was thought that it would be best to issue the survey on paper as that is how we would store the data.

Parents and carers can also volunteer in the school. There is a process to go through for this and involves a thorough PGA.

Action RB & LM

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Rachel Bhandari

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

6. Election of Posts

The election of posts was discussed. The nominations went ahead and the current office bearers retained their posts.

7. Members and Co-opted members of the Parent Council

RoB agreed to continue as our co-opted member on the Parent Council.

8. BPC Constitution for 2019- 2020

The constitution was adopted for the next year.

9. Financial Report

KW provided a financial report for the Parent Council and a copy is attached.

It was suggested that in the future the Parent Council could pay for the activity week that learners in the primary department undertake in the summer term. This year their activities included: Science Centre Visit, Bikeability, MacDonald's, Saughton Park and Beach Buggies.

KW suggested that the Parent Council could also provide learners with a 'transition gift' when they leave in their final year of secondary.

RoB suggested that the school could establish a former pupils club. CW thought we would need to gauge interest in this. LM will diarise these suggestions to discuss at a future meeting.

Action LM

LM suggested we offered leavers the chance to attend a 'prom'. As our numbers could be low, we could raise it at the City-Wide Meetings to see if we could team up with other schools.

Action KW

10. Sub Committees: Friends of Braidburn

LM reported that FOB raised £2600 at the recent Fun Day. Next year's fund raising will focus on improving the Primary Playground. CW reported that FOB had received £1000 from Baillie Gifford to go towards our new library area in the Hub. FOBS will make a donation to Tiphereth in respect to the Memory Tree they provided to the school.

KW asked about Forest School and the purchase of Water Proofs. CW confirmed that waterproofs had already been purchased. The school has still to decide how to spend PEF funding for 2019/20 and a sum carried over from last year.

11. Head Teacher's Update

CW provided her Head Teacher's report and a copy is attached.

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Rachel Bhandari

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

CW confirmed that there were currently 4 PSA and 2x 16-hour posts vacant in the school. These posts are currently being covered by experienced supply PSAs.

12. Minutes of meeting 3rd June 2019

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. KW asked if the item relating to the sourcing and identifying a location for the parent notice board be attributed to herself.

Action LM

13. Transport

The issues surrounding the changes to the administration, criteria and provision of home to school transport were discussed. GM and KW informed the team that some appeals were still outstanding. Additionally, there are issues regarding individual transport, lack of risk assessments, lack of transparency and numerous other concerns. They plan to attend a meeting with council representatives and other parents and carers Thursday 12th September and will provide feedback.

Action GM and KW

14. City Wide Special Schools Update

An update on this will be provided when available.

Action KW

15. Sports Day

KW asked if the organisers of the Primary School Sports Day could consider in future to have more circuit-based activities at Sports Day. Some learners find the waiting that is involved in the traditional running type races challenging and prefer a continuous circuit-based activity. CW said that she would ask the PE teachers if this could be considered in the future.

Action CW

16. Parent Council Notice Board

KW informed the team that the Parent Council Notice Board has now been hung up in the Family Room.

17. Parent Council Web Page

LM raised the issue of the Parent Council having a page on the school website. CW and CM informed the meeting that the school now has a new website based on the Word Press platform. LM will provide CM with future meeting agendas and abbreviated minutes of past meetings to add to the page. Introductory text could also be taken from the Parent Council document for parents that LF created in June. LM also suggested adding some useful documents for parents, such as a pdf of the list of activities that Oaklands School produced, list of FEAST activities, etc. LM will provide a draft of the page for the Parent

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairman: Leigh Ferrand
Vice Chair: Rachel Bhandari

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Kirsty Watt

Council to review before publishing.

Action LM

18. After School Club

KW informed the team that Positive Paths are looking to take a let in the school in order to run an After-School Club. Learners would get the opportunity to take part in sports and arts and crafts activities etc. This would be run independently of Braidburn School and on a trial basis. Positive Paths are looking into providing transport on a 1 to 1 basis. KW will update on the progress of this initiative.

Action KW

19. Story/sensory bags

The production of these bags is progressing well. GM asked the school if they could consider passing on any items that they plan to bin/recycle to the Story Bag team to possibly use. The story bag cupboard is now in the Family Room, so any items could be deposited there. GM also asked if the school could ask parents if they have any items at home that the story bag group could use and send these in. GM suggested that the Story Bag team could become a Sub Committee of the Parent Council.

KW asked if CM could order some school badges that could be sewn on to the bags so they can be easily identified if they are taken outside of the school. CM confirmed that she could order them free of VAT. CM will also enquire if a half zip fleece could be ordered for those learners who prefer this design.

Action GM, CM and CW

Despite the delay in the opening of the new Royal hospital for Sick Children LM will contact them to see about providing us with resources to create a story bag about visiting the hospital.

Action LM

20. Proposed dates for future meetings of the BPC

This item was carried over to the next meeting on Monday 4th November due to time constraints.

21. AOB

None

22. Parents' Questions

None