



 Bathgate Early Years Centre

Parent Council Meeting Thursday 21st March 2019

**Attendees:**

**Parents / Non-Staff:** Marion Courtney, Jennifer Strang, Gillian Greenwell, Leigh Maybury, Kirsteen Sullivan, Kay Taylor, Clare Dignall, Audrey Templeton, Ros Milligan, Janice Earl-Summers, Dorthe Davidson

**Staff:** Margaret Johns

**Apologies:**

Harry Cartmill, Liz Notman, Alison Currie, Claire Bett, Samantha Wilkins, Dawn Roden, Helen Stirling, Laura Marshall, Carol Moffat, Taylor Anne Kelly, Karen Smillie, Claire Swan, Mark McCallum

**Stepping down from PC:**

Paula Diment

1. **Approval of Previous minutes and update on actions:**
* Grant Moffat is doing well updating the website and the minutes from the PC meetings are now on this for the last 3 meetings
* School website and twitter feeds working really well although still some classes posting more than others
* Parents Evening letters have been issued to parents for the next consultations on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2019and some parents also received emails regarding this. There was a group call issued to advise parents of some initial hitches with the online booking but no further update was issued to advise issues fixed and able to book. **ACTION – Margaret took a note for group call updates next consultations and to look into the possibility of uploading the consultation letters to the school website**
* Bathgate West Nursery & Early Years Centre janitorial support – Margaret confirmed that these are now both included on the rota however the janitors are generally quite short staffed at present.
* Bathgate West Nursery – Margaret confirmed that a new buggy park has been ordered and this will be built during the Easter break
* Survey monkey - further survey has been issued and a note is included about this on the newsletter issues this week with the link to it (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/THWX9YZ>). The feedback so far implies that the parent free playground in the mornings will continue.
* PVG’s - we now have a number of parents who have PVG’s which is great but if any more would like to be included then please just contact the office, the more the merrier. Information on this is also included in the newsletter this week
* P7 Oscars event confirmed as 24/06/19
* P7 Prom confirmed as 26/06/19
* Bike training - no update on this as yet
* Broken locks on toilets - Margaret confirmed that this work is on the list to be completed by the janitors
* Minutes approved
1. **P7:**
* Hoodies – date for these to be confirmed as yet but the intention is for the P7’s to have these to wear in the last month of school in June
* P7 will have 2 fundraiser events next term – Morrisons bag packing and a hike around Arthurs seat with a picnic afterwards
1. **Fundraising:**
* It was requested that the figures raised at fundraising events are published to the school page and included on newsletters. Parent Council can provide our figures but at present still no update on what funds were raised by the school for the Christmas Fayre. **ACTION: Margaret will provide an update on this** **and** **ensure that any funds raised on future events will be published shortly after the event.**
1. **Head Teachers report**:
2. Balbardie attainment presentation by Margaret – overall summary below split across each year group:

 

* The above is not just taken from test results, it is taken across various areas and aspects of the school year.
* “Writing” has been identified as a particular area of concern in the whole of West Lothian not just for Balbardie
* Teaching staff have been given targets to try and meet to improve attainment and they are all extremely driven to do so
* Mrs Leamy has been tasked with tackling literacy and Mr McCabe has been tasked with mental agility and numbers
* We have a fairly large group of pupil support workers to help pupils who need additional support
* Areas of concern for an individual child should not wait until parent consultations, these should be highlighted before this stage and if you feel that you have a concern then please arrange an appointment with the class teacher initially to address this.
* Next year there will be an interim report provided to parents/carers following the first parent consultations rather than just getting a report near the end of the class year.
* Measures already put in place to tackle some of the above analysis – authors have been invited into the school which the children have thoroughly enjoyed, library areas are in the classrooms and there are a few different ideas on how we can promote spelling, grammar and handwriting and make this fun for the children but at the same time challenge them to improve in these areas.
* There is an intention to purchase more resources in the near future such as books.
* More work will be invested in listening and talking areas of the curriculum
* Promotion of consistency in classroom practice which is very important
1. PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) spending plans update:
* Balbardie currently is in the top 5 to 8 of PEF allocation, we get more than Bathgate Academy
* Margaret working alongside Grant Abbot from Bathgate Academy to see what areas need tackled
* Nurture/Pupil support initiatives
* Family link worker – currently we have approximately 15 families that she works with
* Shared Counsellor (1 day allocated to Balbardie/3 days to Bathgate Academy)
* Numeracy teacher funded between Balbardie and Bathgate Academy (half and half between Balbardie and Bathgate Academy)
* Access to campus cop – to help tackle areas such as health and wellbeing, internet safety, etc
1. Dealing with challenging behaviours in school:
* Support in class and out
* Nurture groups
* Therapy
* Referral to partners e.g. GP, mental health & wellbeing screening group, inclusion and wellbeing service
* Internal exclusion (short and long term)
* Temporary exclusion as a last resort – our goal is always to maintain mainstream (we have a few children in this category at present)
* Margaret is looking at the possibility of using JASS awards for going forward. The objectives of the JASS programme are aligned with the wider learning objectives of the *Curriculum for Excellence*, *The Outdoor Challenge*, and the *National Curriculum*, making it easy to run alongside and incorporate existing curricular activities. <https://www.jasschools.org.uk/>
1. Depute recruitment/interview
* Agreement has been reached to make the acting Deputy Head post of Katie Leamy to a permanent position - long leet interviews will be at Balbardie Primary on 22/04/19 and short leet interview date still to be confirmed for June.
* **ACTION: 2 volunteers needed for the interviews from trained PC members available – to be selected at next PC meeting on 16th May.**

1. **Recycling bins/reduce plastic waste:**
* Ros addressed this point on the back of the P3/P4 show recently about recycling.
* Concerns around where to put rubbish and comments from parents/carers that there is a lot of litter scattered around the playground.
* Margaret advised that P5 are taking the lead on tackling rubbish in the playground, and they have “litter squads”. It had been identified already as an issue with children eating outside, which can lead to issues with wasps, seagulls and potentially rats.
* P5 litter squads are trialling eating their snacks inside then going out to play - this means the rubbish can be disposed of and recycled appropriately.
* Next trial for the P5’s will be for them to eat their packed lunches upstairs then go out and play once finished.
* Once the trial is completed this will then be rolled out to the other year groups.
* Margaret suggested that she collects all the rubbish at the end of snack or lunch time and share this information with the children at an assembly to drive home the message of reducing waste and recycling in general.
* P6/P7 could possibly eat outside but this is still TBC
* Possibility of using the coloured bins again for recycling drive – each house team has a coloured bin. **ACTION – Margaret will look into this** **to see what could be done**
* Red noses – as we are trying to have a recycling drive the question was asked if we can refrain from selling these next year and we could do something different like use face paints to paint noses or such like. **ACTION: Margaret took a note of this for next year**
1. **Treasurer report:**
* £319.34 was made from the Valentine Disco

**Subgroup updates:**

1. **Fundraising–** May is an extremely busy month for people**:**
* Possibility of a bake sale at parents evening– decided against this as not much time until this happens
* Great Balbardie Bake Off – really good idea but possibly do this around September instead and have a P1-P3/P4-P5/P6-P7 winners. This idea can be explored in the near future.
* Danceathon – whole school fundraiser event on 10/06/19 (school funds) - with people dancing throughout the whole day. (P7 will be doing something special during this event, more to follow soon on this)
* 18th May 2019 – Parent council will be attending The Procession Street Fair 11am to 3pm – we will have a kid’s tombola, where we can use the leftover Santa presents to recoup some funds – other ideas are welcome too. Dorthe has contacted other cluster schools to see if they would like to attend and have a collective school representation for Bathgate. We do not need to pay for a stall, we donate 10% of takings to the procession funds. **ACTION: volunteers will be needed for this event and perhaps some P7’s could also help out if possible.**
1. **Float :**
* There are a number of new members helping including 3 new families with young children which is great for when some existing members move on and they can carry forward the tradition and support for the float.
* Float is progressing well with the Wednesday club
* Children in school are doing sugar skulls
* Mrs Aitken running with the poster competition
* Dawn Roden won a prize at our recent bingo night of a joiner for the day and she kindly donated this to the float committee
* Additional trailer this year which Janice (Coco) will be on
* Moving parts on the float this year as well so all very exciting
* Mariachi band will be playing at the front of the float also
1. **Parent engagement**
* Marketplace, uniform recycling and teas/coffees during the parent consultation nights on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2019. **ACTION: 2 volunteers each night to help with the above event – this is now covered following the parent engagement meeting on Friday 22/03/19 and we have enough volunteers**
* Friday 29/03/19 – need as many volunteers as possible to help with sorting out the uniform recycling – looking for people to come in at 12:15 after the school run this day to sort and organise the uniform. A letter has also gone out to parents about this. **ACTION: volunteers needed on 29/03/19.**
1. **AOB**
* Parent Council training available at St John the Baptist school in Fauldhouse on 26/03/19 from 6:30-8:30pm. Places are free but registration is essential using this link - [Events and Training :: Connect](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.connect.scot%2Fevents&data=02%7C01%7CJennifer.Strang%40sky.uk%7C17d9fa7a23534f675bcd08d6a0211079%7C68b865d5cf184b2b82a4a4eddb9c5237%7C0%7C0%7C636872461206179073&sdata=eOWeD1Zc2kZeHOxsh0VlXdu5h4VBWdlDTZl5bQui%2BhQ%3D&reserved=0)
* Connect insurance – Janice asked what level of cover we have currently – **ACTION: Margaret to check and confirm this**

**Next Parent council meeting on Thursday 16th May 2019 - 7pm to 9pm**