



 Bathgate Early Years Centre

Balbardie Primary School

Parent Council Meeting AGM

24th August 2021

CHAIRED BY CLAIRE SWAN

1. Apologies: Harry Cartmill, Clare Dignall, Fiona Cameron, Kirsteen Sullivan
2. Approval of previous minutes: Approved
3. AGM to appoint new parent council members; chair, vice chair, treasurer, minute takers, sub committee leads

Chair: Claire Swan to continue in post

Vice Chair: Jennifer Strang to continue in post

Treasurer: Marion Courtney

Minute takers: 29/10/21 – Marion McCallum

 13/01/22 – Ros Milligan

 17/03/22 – Marion Courtney

 12/05/22 – Janice Earl Summers

 16/06/22 – TBC

**Sub Committee Leads;**

Fundraising – Claire Swan, Marion McCallum, Kirsteen Sullivan, Lauren Reid

PEG– Marion Courtney, Leigh Maybury, Pauline Stafford, Lauren Reid

Float Club – Janice Earl Summers

**Year Group Reps;**

Early Years : Fiona Cameron

ARB: TBC- group call to be sent out inviting parents to volunteer

P1: TBC- group call to be sent out inviting parents to volunteer

P2: Vikki Samuel

P3: Pauline Stafford

P4: Aimee Clark

P5: Alison Currie

P6: Leigh Maybury

P7: Lisa Robertson

1. **Head Teacher Report: Margaret Johns**

Term has restarted well, children happy to be back and great enthusiasm for the new term.

New Deputy Head Teacher: The deputy head position was advertised at the end of June, to replace Kirsten Patience, and received 19 applicants.

8 applicants were considered further, with a day of interviews. A final 3 candidates have been invited to a remote interview on 02/09/21. Interviewing panel will include school officials, chair of parent council Claire Swan, and parent council members Janice Earl Summers and/or Jennifer Strang who have been through school recruitment training.

1. **Calendar Dates** – approved by current parent council. The current calendar includes no dates for PEG events or meetings, but these will be added as required by the PEG group. There will be a special SWAY presentation to follow detailing these.

**A.O.B:**

Will there be any residential trips for P5/6/7 this academic year? At this point, the school really doesn’t know if this will be possible. The school is hopeful that when the Scottish government allows, that P5-7 would be able to have a residential trip of some form, by next summer. All 3 year groups (P5, P6, P7) would be considered as they have missed out over the past 18 months of covid-19 restrictions. At this stage, no definite plans are in place, but the school hopes that each year group would get at least one night away, depending on government guidelines, and staffing. If possible, trips would be organised and booked Jan 2022. Restrictions are slowly lifting and gradually more things are possible. After school activities will be able to restart soon.

Balbardie Buddy Teddies were well received by the new P1s. The children will be writing thank you letters to Janice Earl Summer’s Mum and friend who knitted the teddies.

Are parents still required to wear masks in the playground? Scottish government advice remains as it was before the end of the summer term, that is, please wear a mask in the playground, for at least the first 6 weeks of term.

Parents keep asking for teacher emails on the school Facebook page. What is the correct procedure here? Direct parents to the general school office email (on the header from school letters that are sent home). Mrs White checks that email daily and redirects emails as appropriate. Parents can also email Margaret Johns, or call the school office and ask for a call back from the appropriate teacher to discuss private matters. Parents can also use the SeeSaw app to contact their child’s teacher. Parents should be aware that teachers are in class during the day, and after hours, may have other commitments, so a response is not likely to be immediate. Urgent matters should be directed to the school office.

School uniform suppliers – currently this is Borders Embroidery. Parents have concerns that it is expensive, which may exclude some children from being able to wear school branded uniform. Margaret Johns will explore other options (possibly Tesco, as it is local to the school) to see whether there is a cheaper and better alternative. If using Tesco, this also has the benefit of parents being able to use Tesco Clubcard points to purchase uniforms, or the school to use their own Clubcard points to purchase uniforms for families in need.

Thanks and goodbyes from the Chair, Claire Swan and Mrs Margaret Johns

Next meeting: 29/10/21