

Balmuilty Primary School

Parent Council Minutes

Tuesday 30th May 2023

Apologies Kelly O'Neill, Susan Mason

Present: Susan Anderson, Stephanie Fowler, Heather Glass, Hazel Fisher, Lorna Kenney, Melodie Crumlin, Marieanne Macleod

Parent Council Guideline - HF has updates the current guidelines and all members are happy with the amendments. LK will update this document onto the school website.

Future Dates – SM had emailed to say Tuesday evening will difficult for attendance. It was discussed to offer alternative evening for meetings in case this is also prohibitive for other parents to attend

Wed 6th Sept, Tuesday 7th Nov – AGM, Wed 31 Jan, Tuesday 5th March, Wednesday 17th April, Tuesday 28 May. . All meetings will be at Turnbull High School, 6:30-8pm. MM to book lets with EDC

Engagement with new P1 parents/ Promotion of PC to wider parent forum – new P1 parents have meeting at Balmuilty, Thursday 8th June, LK offered PC to come along to meeting to chat to parents informally after the school presentation. HF is able to go and represent PC. Ways to gain wider visibility and better understanding of role of PC to school body was discussed. Newsletter to be made for the beginning of the new school year to be sent out to all parents. Agenda themes to be discussed at first meeting of term and agenda to be emailed out to all parents to encourage interest in attendance. Would like to aim to have representation from each class at the PC.

Organisation of classes - LK said Balmuilty have no set policy for changing classes, they ensure any decisions are based on the needs of each year group and there is no restriction on how class changes are managed to allow for flexibility with class needs, eg learning groups and social needs within the year group. Current P3 and P4 are going to have classes mixed due to a number of factors, consolidation of learning groups, new pupils within these year groups, and social aspects. Parents have been informed, and children will be well supported through this change. HG commented how it can normalise moving classes for both children and parents if it was done on a more regular basis, and shared how it can refresh the class dynamics.

Cost of school day – LK shared Toolkit resource, from the Child Poverty Action group. SF discussed how often parents had been asked recently for donations, asked if school could be mindful of timings of asking for donations, especially with extra costs of school trips, discussed being mindful over larger families having to contribute to many activities. Discussed looking at ways the school could donate back into local groups, food banks, etc for children to be more aware of where money was going. PTA fundraising was discussed and questions how and where the money is redistributed

into the school. Uniform swap shop discussed which everyone thought a positive idea and follows in line with schools sustainably vision.

AOB – LK has received an email outlining the next steps of the new build and current estimated timings, which had previously been distributed between the PC members. PC disappointed with how poorly the consultation had been advertised by council with parents and neighbours. PC to write to council to raise concern of lack of communication and ask for better publicity of next consultation