# Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.00 pm in person at Bearsden Academy

Mr Cooper

Mr Healy

Chris Dorman (Chair)

Debbie Monaghan

Rachel Huston

Lisa Manchanda

Katherine Sneeden

January Morgan White

Andrea Glendinning

Stuart Dickson (Secretary)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris opened the meeting and apologies were noted from Wendy McLaren and Alison Ward.

1. Introduction from the chair

Chris confirmed that we would do the next meeting as an AGM and in conjunction with the Bearsden Academy PTA. Following the formalities of the AGM, it was agreed each organisation would present their reflections of the past year. The date was agreed as the 14th March in the school.

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 1st November 2022

The minutes of November’s meeting were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising

Mr Cooper was asked about contingency plans for the lost time as a result of the strike days for those undergoing exams in S4, 5, & 6.

Mr Cooper replied that there is no indication that the pupils are falling behind, however the school is monitoring this. If the teachers are on strike, there will be no work posted however these will be plenty of historic resources online and usual homework. It is assumed that the running of the exams will not be affected, however management need to ensure that the school is open and safe to enter.

Debbie wished to ask about the content of the PSE program. Mr Cooper suggested speaking to the guidance teacher for the relevant years.

Stuart asked Mr Cooper about press stories regarding the difficulty of getting into Scottish university – namely due to the cap in places and that ‘flags’ favouring more deprived areas might see our pupils struggle to get into preferred courses. Mr Cooper was aware of the stories but in practical terms BA has not seen an impact – in fact the system has been used to help some pupils who have elements of disadvantage.

Lisa went to the graduate apprenticeship program at Strathclyde. Companies employ people and they go to university one day a week. This is a great system as they earn a salary to support themselves and also earn a qualification. It shows that there is not a single path post-school. Data shows 99% of students get a job at the end of it.

There was also a STEM program evening with parents who work in STEM industries and some former pupils who came back to share their experiences.

Mr Cooper was also asked about stories in the press about rolling out laptops to all pupils, however he was not aware of any progress in this initiative.

1. Head Teacher update

Mr Cooper & Mr Healy ran through the following points.

* End of term Sway issued to community, celebrating achievements of our young people. Tracker in place to encourage parents, young people and staff to inform of success.
* Sways released since our last meeting included information about our Parent Council.
* SQA Updated regarding – Appeals and Exceptional Circumstances shared via group call.
* S2 Personalisation & Choice evening for S2 parents held on Thursday 12th January with presentation & subject tours for parents and young people.
* S2 Personalisation and Choice process well underway with returns due on Friday 10th February. S3 Personalisation and Choice also underway with returns due by Friday 10th February
* Senior Phase Pathways event will take place on Thursday 2nd March. Letter to follow for S4/S5 parents
* S2, S4, S5 and S6 year groups have received a full written report. S3 due March and S1 due May.
* S2 Parents’ Eve in Dec and S4 due Wed 8th Feb. Two dates planned for S5/6 (8th March and 15th March)
* S4 Prelim Interim released on Mon 6th Feb. S5/6 due 20th Feb.
* Parent Leadership Group have completed an online module through West College Scotland and attended 4 in-person events.
* West College Scotland delivering four sessions for parents (27th Feb, 20th March, 24th April, 15th May). 42 parents have signed up for this.
* Red Hands Day is taking place in Feb via Modern Studies. PTA supporting this event. Links to our Right’s Respecting School Award.
* Pupil Improvement Team has been reconvened with 25 members from S1-S6. They are currently planning implementation of digital badges via Satchel One and writing proposals for improvements in the school.
* Pupil Focus Groups exploring School Environment. They are looking to explore ways of improving school building.
* S4/S5/S6 Mentoring Program, targeted pupils have teacher mentor to support with signposting towards resources to support, growth mindset, organisation and planning, post prelim results.
* S4/S5/S6 Supported Study begins for 6 weeks on week beginning 20th February. Group Call to parents to follow.
* S6 Ambassadors have supported mental health week via pupil assemblies over the past 2 weeks. The theme of connection and belonging has been supported by drop-in sessions held throughout this week.
* S6 Modern Languages Ambassadors have been leading languages transition with primary pupils.
* ELR have been busy creating and cooking fantastic new soup recipes. They have tested many of their recipes with staff and pupils with some delicious results.
* ELR are currently designing planters for BA kitchen garden
* S2 Masterclass begin week beginning 20th February. Building upon John Muir Award, S2 have a wide range of fun opportunities to choose from with additional accreditation and awards linked to their learning. Outdoor learning continues to feature.
* BGE Homework club returns on Tuesday after school with the addition of The Carnagie Reading Challenge supporting literacy.
* Senior pupils returned to class after prelim exam diet. Feedback to parents and next steps via reports/parents evening
* New Club – Tuesday after school – Young Engineering Club. S6 pupils introduced club to BGE pupils via assembly this week.
* Children’s Mental Health Week (W/b 6th Feb) themed assemblies and we have activities running during lunchtimes to support young people. These have been well attended so far.
* Wellbeing Podcast published this week and features wellbeing ambassadors discussing mental health. This is available on Spotify, as are all the historic ones.
* S6 Subject ambassadors continue to develop their leadership skills in a range of roles from hosting chess club to supporting numeracy.
* Safer internet Week is running alongside Childrens Mental Health week.
* Live and Learn Workshops delivered to senior phase pupils in Nov focusing on mindsets for learning and supporting attainment and achievement.
* S6 Hallowe’en Dance hosted by PE Department
* S1 and S6 Christmas Dance hosted by PE Department
* Tracking Meetings to discuss interventions and supports for Senior Phase w/b 20th Feb.
* Wide range of supported study on offer for this term which begins week beginning 20th February.
* Staff in service day planned to update improvement planning against improvement priorities – this in turn will update the school improvement plan (update will be available via school website). Staff will also focus on their role within interventions for equity using an innovative triage model led by a number of staff around the school.
* Staff have developed a Professional Learning Community running each month after school. There are two groups running using a collaborative model to improve learning and teaching through professional dialogue and observing practice.
* Transition plans in place with regular meetings last term and this term with cluster schools.
* Thomas Muir Event was hosted by Bearsden Academy and young people performed a drama piece and created an Art display related to the life of Thomas Muir.
* Our Music dept hosted a return to our Music Concert over a 2 night period for our local community. They also put on a daytime performance for residents of local care homes.
* Run up to Christmas. Community run on 18th Dec, 5km. 31 parents signed up. Collectively ran 2809km. PTA supported refreshments at end of event.
* Connected Community Ambassadors delivered over 40 hampers to local community and Ukrainian families. PTA supported this event.
* PTA Christmas Fair was very successful. Christmas Raffle tickets sold well. Planning meeting for this term on Thurs 16th Feb.
* Environmental Ambassadors continue to litter pick within the community. They are currently working on their local environment plan.

Generally, it feels like a normal, fast paced term which is great.

1. AOCB

How are staffing levels? Are there any vacancies? Mr Cooper said that there are no outstanding vacancies in front line roles, apart from a couple of short-term ones which are being backfilled.

Did the staff enjoy the Parents Evenings? The post-evening evaluations were good internally. The booking system worked well, though there will always be issues.

1. Date of Next Meeting

This was set for 14th March – AGM of the Parent Council & a joint meeting with the PTA.

Parents are very welcome to attend this Meeting.