

## BANCHORY ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL (BAPC)

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 10 September 2020 (via Skype)

**Present (current members):** Trish Amundrud, Vikki Duncan, Kate Ellison, Rebecca Glansbeek, Megan Hare, Colin MacLeod, Scott Newey (Chair), Jeanne Ritchie (Treasurer), Alison Smart (Secretary) and Linda Stromberg (Vice-Chair).

**In attendance:** Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Moira Langmuir, Cllr Anne Ross, Ian Sharp, Sarah Storer, Judith Wight (Rector) and Alex Wilowska.

**Apologies:** Jacqueline Conroy, Katie Davies, Ruth Duddy\*, Cllr Eileen Durno and Andrea Hale\*.

\*technical issues on the night prevented two members from joining the meeting.

#### Action

#### 1. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on 5 September 2019 were formally approved. There were no matters arising.

#### 2. PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Scott Newey, Chair, gave a presentation which reported on the purpose and remit of school parent councils and the activities and events of the past year, which highlighted the following:-

- The Parent Council existed to represent the Parent Forum, with members elected from and by the Parent Forum. The purpose of Parent Council was to "work constructively, cooperatively and in partnership with parents, the school and wider community to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all pupils and parents."
- Notable activity throughout the year included the following, with thanks extended to those members actively involved in supporting/organising:
  - o Participation in a very successful Careers Fair in September 2019.
  - o Organisation of the "Healthy Minds Evening" for parents in February 2020.
  - o The introduction of "focus topics" at meetings, with presentations from staff on: the Wellbeing Award and the peer listeners initiative; the school library; and the role of guidance staff at Banchory Academy.
  - o Participation in several working groups i.e. literacy, numeracy, and careers.
  - o The provision of refreshments for staff at sports day, the overnight 'sportathon' event, and home bakes to welcome staff back to school in August.
  - o Increased social media activity.
  - o Continued to represent the views of the Parent Forum to the school, to identify challenges and solutions, especially in relation to Covid-19. Parents would be encouraged to continue to liaise with the school in relation to any personal concerns or issues, which PC was generally unable to get involved in.
- There had been a full complement of 16 BAPC members in 2019/20, with all school years represented. It had been another busy year with 4 physical meetings all of which were well attended. The final meeting of the year was cancelled following the Covid-19 outbreak and a reduced online meeting with office bearer and the Rector was held instead, to pass on and discuss a wide range of concerns and issue raised by parents, of which members were briefed.
- Thanks were extended to all members of the BAPC, as well as to parents from the wider Parent Forum who had attended, and the three local councillors for their support

in relation to many issues. All those attending had contributed towards supporting the ongoing strong contact between parents and the school. The work of the teachers was also recognised and thanks extended to all staff, the teachers, support staff, management team and the Rector.

### 3. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jeanne Ritchie, Treasurer, presented accounts for the year ending 31 July 2020. One payment of £499.65 had been received from Aberdeenshire Council for use by the Parent Council. Payments made during the year amounted to £688.33 and covered the cost of compostable cups for use at events, travel costs, and costs associated with the Careers Fair (food and booklets). The closing balance for the year was £1489.85. It was noted that a further spend of £100.63 on outdoor items was owed to the school; **JR** would issue a cheque to the school shortly and reconfirm the closing balance for the year.

**JR**

### 4. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS 2020/21**

Communications had gone out to all parents inviting them to stand as members in the hope that some new members might be encouraged to come forward. It was re-iterated that all parents were welcome to attend and contribute to Parent Council.

The appointment of the following Office Bearers was approved:

- Scott Newey: Chair (continuing)
- Linda Stromberg: Vice-Chair (continuing)
- Jeanne Ritchie: Treasurer (re-elected)
- Alison Smart: Secretary (re-elected)

The following 2 members would continue into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their appointment:

- Ruth Duddy (continuing)
- Andrea Hale (continuing)

The following existing members had indicated a desire to retain their membership and their re-election for a further 2-year period, unless otherwise indicated, was approved as follows:

- Trish Amundrud (re-elected)
- Jaqueline Conroy (re-elected)
- Katie Davies (re-elected)
- Vikki Duncan (re-elected for 1-year\*)
- Kate Ellison (re-elected)
- Rebecca Glansbeek (re-elected)
- Megan Hare (re-elected for 1-year\*)
- Colin MacLeod (re-elected)

\* after 2020/21 these members will no longer have a child in attendance at Banchory Academy

Approval of the above completed the appointment of the Parent Council for 2020/21. The final membership provided representation of each school year group.

Sincere thanks were extended to the Chair, Scott Newey, for supporting the Parent Council through a difficult period.