

Banchory Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes

14 September 2023 8.00-8.45pm

Learning Plaza, Banchory Academy

Attendees: Sofi Izatts (Chair); Sarah Little (Incoming Secretary); Ruth Hutchinson (Incoming Treasurer); Rebecca Glansbeek (Outgoing Treasurer); Karen Alford; Louise Considine; Marion Fyfe; Chigo Opara; Fiona Melville; Jennifer Currie

Apologies: Julia Fleming; Kate Parton; Scott Newey; Trish Amundrud; Sophie Logue McLeod; Councillor Ann Ross; Lynne Street; Fiona Shanley

1. Approve minutes of last PC meeting

The minutes from the last meeting on 27 April 2023 were approved with no matters arising.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair had given her report at the AGM preceding this PC meeting. There was nothing further to report.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Outgoing Treasurer had given her report at the AGM preceding this PC meeting. There was nothing further to report.

4. Rector's Report

Staffing

We have welcomed new staff to Banchory Academy this session

- Mrs Meagan Lorimer PT Pupil Development and Targeted Support
- Mrs Charlotte Aitken Drama
- Mr Jonathan Fitch Music
- Mr Matthew Angelides Chemistry

We have also said goodbye to Mrs Darrell Anderson Drama who has taken up a new post at Inverurie Academy in the ASL Department.

SQA results

Again, our results remain very positive and a huge well done to our pupils and staff for all the hard work that was done to get to this place.

Changes to the curriculum offer

This is one of our main focuses this session and parents will be informed on what this will involve in the near future.

Social Media

Social media continues to be an ongoing issue and has recently involved staff at the school being targeted. This has been discussed with pupils in assembly, the local authority and the police. It causes upset and stress for those being focused on.

Working groups

The schools working groups are now meeting to look at areas they wish to take forward this academic session. Parent and pupil representatives are being sought to support this. The groups are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Family Learning
- Learning Teaching and Assessment
- DYW
- Curriculum Structure

Please contact the School Office or Parent Council if you wish to be a parent representative on any of these groups. You do not need to be a member of the Parent Council to join a Working Group.

5. Office Bearer role descriptions

New Office Bearer role descriptions have been drafted and will be circulated to the Parent Council members for review and discussion at the next PC meeting.

6. Appoint Office Bearers for 2023-24

This was completed at the AGM preceding this PC meeting with all three roles filled.

7. Expense claim process for BAPC members

The Treasurer will draft this for review and discussion at the next PC meeting.

8. New member welcome leaflet

It was proposed that we create a welcome/information leaflet about the Parent Council for new members including the current Office Bearers, photos and what they do; the role of a PC member; how to join the PC etc.

Karen Alford has kindly offered to design this leaflet.

9. Communications including new Comms & Media Officer role and internal BAPC communication channels

We discussed having a new role of Communications & Media Officer to manage the social media channels, newsletter etc as has been carried out by Ruth Hutchinson recently who has now taken on the Treasurer role.

Sarah will write a role description for review and discussion at the next PC meeting.

We also discussed whether the PC members wished to continue using Slack as a method for communications between ourselves. It was agreed it is a good platform but some people would like a short training session on how to use it.

Sarah to organise this for the next PC meeting and write/find some helpful hints in the meantime.

Sarah to invite all new PC members to join the Slack channel. Those who have stepped down will be asked to remove themselves from Slack.

10. Events for 2023-24 including information evenings, social and fundraising events

We are in the early planning stages of a Social Media Parent Information Evening in partnership with Banchory Police. This is likely to be early November for all members of the Parent Forum. Information will be shared in due course.

The Chair asked for people to send ideas out of what they'd like discussing at further events and info evenings.

11. Issues arising from Parent Forum

S6 Prom date

There had been concerns raised about the provisional date for the S6 Prom of 28th March being too close to the Easter holidays.

Judith will discuss it with the teaching staff and go back to parent forum.

School Yearbooks

There had been some issues with the printing and House Colours being mixed up at the publishing stage. Judith was unclear how it had happened but will look into it.

12. AOB

Marion Fyfe mentioned that the recent S1 Meet the Teachers event was helpful and appreciated.

It was confirmed that S1-3 parents' evenings would be online this year, and S4-6 ones would be in person.

The PC will request the School Office to set up a Teams link for future PC meetings so that members can join remotely.

There will potentially be another Uniform Exchange in November if we can locate the old school ties and have enough donations of other uniform items to sell. Judith to look into where the ties have been stored.

13. Date of next meeting

It was proposed either 9th or 23rd November 2023 to commence at 6.30pm. The date will be finalised once we have a date for the Social Media Information Evening.