

Banchory Academy Parent Council Meeting

Minutes

10 September 2024 7.50-9pm

Learning Plaza, Banchory Academy

Attendees: Sofi Izatt (Chair); Jennie Morrison (Incoming Secretary); Karen Alford; Marion Fyfe; Catriona Beverley; Louise Considine; Fiona Melville; Jenny Currie; Kelley Blackwood; Jane Aitcheson

School representatives: Judith Wight (Rector)

Apologies: Ruth Hutchinson; Sophie Logue McLeod;

1. Approve minutes of last Parent Council meeting

The minutes of the last Parent Council meeting were approved.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair did not make a report as the Parent Council AGM had been held immediately prior to this meeting where a Chair's report was presented.

3. Treasurer's Report

Banchory Academy Parent Council
Financial Statement for meeting held on 10/09/24

	£
Opening balance from previous meeting	2735.54
Income: Uniform Exchange	268.00
Uniform Pop-up shop	103.15
Closing balance 10/09/24	3106.69

A small gift was purchased from PC funds at the end of June 2024 for the Janitors to thank them for all their assistance. Louise Considine proposed and Catriona Beverley seconded the spend. The spend is approved.

4. Rector's Report and Presentation on Improvement Plan

a. Rector's Report

Staffing

We have welcomed a number of new staff to Banchory Academy

- Anna Stewart – Music
- Afifa Hossain – RMPS
- Hope Carolan – Art
- Nicola Stewart – Biology
- Elena Correia – Modern Languages
- Michells Corsar – Pupil Support Worker
- Calum King – Acting PT DYW
- Magda Beyaz – teacher of ASL

We also said goodbye to Heather Mullins PSA at the end of August.

Lisa Rodger Teacher of ASL was appointed yesterday as PT Pupil Development and Targeted Support

We will now advertise for teachers of ASL.

SQA results – as discussed during the presentation this evening these have been very positive and we are very proud of our young people. A huge thank you goes to all the teaching staff who have worked hard to allow our young people to be successful. We are now awaiting our Insight data which will be issued soon to help us analyse further our strengths and areas for improvement.

Sponsored Walk

- It was fantastic to see this back on the school calendar. A positive day resulting in just over £5k being raised. Thank you to everyone that has supported this.

Sports Day

- Wednesday 19th sees the re-scheduled sports day. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us.

Rector Drop in

First one of the session is Wednesday 18th Sept. Email has been sent out to parents.

b. Rector's presentation on Improvement Plan

The Rector, Judith Wight gave a presentation on the 24/25 Improvement Plan.

She started by covering the School Core values, CORE: Consideration, Opportunity, Responsibility, Excellence. Alignment with these values is fundamental to the improvement initiatives in the school.

The same 5 priorities as last academic year are being carried forward into 2024/25. Good progress was made last year but Mrs Wight believes there is still more to do in these areas.

Each of the improvement priorities aligns with some of the quality indicators set out in the Education Scotland *How Good Is Our School* framework against which Scottish schools are inspected.

Priority 1 – To develop our school ethos through promoting positive relationships and our vision, aims and values

What's been done:

- Refresh core values and focus on our vision with staff, pupils and parents
- Further embed the continuing use of praise (praise postcards, house captains calling out praiseworthy pupils at assembly)
- Streamline communication reflecting the positive ethos of the school (follow the school Instagram pages)

What's next:

- Vision and aims review
- Partnership working with parents and carers
- Pupil Voice – Universal support time

Priority 2 – to develop and improve the curriculum offer and embed Developing the Young Workforce skills

What's been done:

- Whole school preparations for changes to the curriculum 2024/25

What's next:

- Focus on meta skills
- Changes to timetable have opened up time for skills courses in S1 and S2. The Senior Management Team have been able to teach some of these classes. They are enjoying the teaching time.
- Partnership working (links with employers)

Priority 3 – To improve our approach to LTA (learning, teaching and assessment)

What's been done:

- Rollout of CLCP programme for professional development (luncgh and learns)

- Continue to share good practice (in-service days)
- Staff participation of learning walks (going into other classrooms to learn from each other. Have an open and professional dialogue)
- Further develop the use of digital technology resources and provide resource equipment to deliver high quality learning and teaching. All staff have a laptop which is portable meaning they don't need to log in and out of classroom PCs. The use of Microsoft Teams has been extended. All classrooms have a Smartboard.

What's next

- Circle – looks at learning environment and whether it is accessible to all
- Learning statement – expectations and observations
- BGE moderation in QUAD (working with other shire schools) with a focus on languages & science
- CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning) to support LTA

Priority 4 - To improve wellbeing through ethos of inclusion equity and equality

What's been done:

- Continued use of data to track and monitor wellbeing of young people
- Develop CLPL to meet needs of YP (including trauma informed and dyslexia support)
- Pupil voice (senior pupils to get involved)
- Transition
- Further embed UNCRC and work towards RRS gold status
- Improve home/school links with regards to learning.

What's next:

- The Promise (looking at looked after people)
- Circle (is the learning environment accessible to all)
- Focus on attendance
- See me see change (Mental Health)
- US (Universal Support) time
- Parent support of portal/reporting

Priority 5 - To improve approaches to raising attainment through TMR (tracking, monitoring and reporting)

What's been done:

- Review of SNSA data
- Re-focus of literacy and numeracy – desire that all young people leave school with a literacy and numeracy qualification
- Benchmarking
- Skills – S1 and S2 getting skills classes.

What's next:

- Tracking and monitoring attendance
- Focus on lowest 20% in literacy and numeracy
- Senior phase focus on lowest 20% to ensure they have identified appropriate pathways

To support the improvement plan the 5 priorities are discussed at faculty meetings, departmental meetings, whole staff meetings and ELT/QA meetings. All supported by continued professional learning.

In a Q&A, it was discussed that separate virtual Guidance interviews were to be made available after parent's evenings this year. This was to give parents an opportunity to receive feedback from teachers during parents evenings and then follow up with Guidance if they have specific concerns to discuss.

A question was asked about how the school ensured parents and carers were involved in learning. This year the website will be looked at. Possibly will be a task for the Digital Technology working group.

5. Appoint Office Bearers for 2024/25

The Office Bearers for 2024/25 were proposed as:

Sofi Izatt - Chair

Ruth Hutchinson - Treasurer

Jennie Morrison - Secretary

Louise Considine proposed and Catriona Beverly seconded the appointments. They were therefore approved.

Sofi is keen to appoint a Vice Chair, a new position who will assist the Chair, but have a focus on events and fundraising. She also extended her appeal for a Communications Officer. No nominations were made for these roles. The Parent Council extends an invitation to all parents

of current Banchory Academy pupils to take on one of these roles. Please contact chair.bapc@gmail.com for more information.

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

As above, the Parent Council wishes to appoint a Communications Office role.

Karen Alford has kindly created a New Member's leaflet which outlines the role of the Parent Council. Copies were handed to attendees who are asked to provide any comments back to Karen. once this is finalised it can be added to the website.

7. Events 2024/25

A schedule of presentations on various subjects by members of staff was discussed.

Action: Chair to follow up with the Rector to agree presentations.

The Parent Council had discussed offering to provide snacks or drinks at the Sports day but the logistics of this were quite complex so it was decided it would not be provided.

8. AOB

The start time for Parent Council meetings was discussed. Judith Wight requested that this was moved to 6:30pm start time if possible to allow for an earlier finish. This was agreed by those in attendance.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 2nd October 6:30pm

Moira Paterson will give a presentation on Working Groups and priorities for the 2024/25 academic year. For the benefit of any new parents and carers the 2023/24 working groups were:

- Learning, Teaching & Assessment
- Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)
- Promoting Positive Relationships
- Curriculum Structure
- Family Learning
- Health & Wellbeing
- Digital Technology
- Literacy & Numeracy

Working groups feed into the school improvement plan and each of the school improvement priorities.

The working groups are scheduled throughout the year and meet at lunchtimes, with some looking to meet after school. They are held in person but there is an opportunity to join via Teams.

There is an opportunity to be involved so any interested parents and carers are welcomed to attend.