

Braes High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes 7/3/2022

Present; H McManus, (chair) I Livingstone, Dr Quinlan, Dr Wilson, M Cotter, D Ironside, K MacKinnon, A Anderson, L Macintyre, D Surphlis, A Johnson, C Petty, W MacPherson, D Ainslie, F Robertson, A Watt, M Lang, C Duncan.

Apologies; Dianne Dagger, Kirsty Baird, Neil McCauley, Gillian Surphlis.

Previous minutes.

I Livingstone gave updates on Self Evaluation, bus travel, litter prevention, signage, Braes Brightside and FDAMH sessions.

W MacPherson clarified that Fraser MacPherson had been involved in the digital presentation and Douglas MacPherson was involved with the health and well being presentation.

W MacPherson proposed the minutes. K MacKinnon seconded.

School update.

I Livingstone introduced Dr Quinlan and the representatives from the STEM group, Murray and Alice. The pupils spoke enthusiastically about taking STEM into the feeder primary schools with a CSI experiment. Videos and worksheets will go to the primary schools and they hope to have lunchtime clubs running soon.

I Livingstone introduced Dr Wilson and some of the Eco group, Sophie, Sophia, Ross, Katie, Ruby (on video) and Iona. They informed us about the many activities the group are involved with, in the community, council and also internationally. Activities include a sustainability audit, promoting the group, posters, displays, community litter picks and RSPB bird watch. The group is also linked with a school in Zimbabwe.

Ruby won a Falkirk Council recycling poster competition and now has her design on the side of a recycling lorry, which has been spotted in the Braes area.

Both I Livingstone and H McManus thanked pupils and staff for their presentations.

D Ironside gave an update about the School Improvement Plan and is asking for interested parents to chat to the SIP group around Easter. Areas to be covered are relationships, Learning and Teaching and Health and Wellbeing. If you are interested please email david.ironside@falkirk.gov.uk

M Cotter spoke about One Last Push. With SQA exams approaching, S4,5,6 assemblies have taken place. Students have supported study cafes, Easter school, (Mon 4 April and Tues 5 April) Eschool, YouTube FVWLRIC videos and Scholar resources are available for pupils to use. In addition, Cheryl Butler runs stress workshops in school. Feedback from pupils indicated that pupils have been happy to have prelims.

There will be an update from SQA this week.

A Anderson thanked staff for their support and work with pupils.

I Livingstone gave a general update about published Insight Data and noted that Literacy and Numeracy at Level 4 and 5 was above average. Last year 98% of pupils left school going to a positive destination. This is a record high.

The Mark Scott Leadership Award work is underway and Braes pupils are involved in making a tapestry to involve the local community.

Work continues with the Cost of the school day and Child Poverty in Scotland. Braes staff provided a Christmas (food) shopping service. One parent commented that this had been very helpful and asked if there were plans to do this at other times in the year. As the cost of living increases, Iain Livingstone reminded parents that Falkirk Council makes payments for school holidays for food for pupils in need.

Braes has been awarded the General Teaching Council Scotland Excellence in Professional Learning.

Equalities group have been busy with the upcoming International Women's Day.

Braes pupils will also take part in the May inservice training in school.

Treasurer

W MacPherson indicated that the books are currently with the auditor. There is no change to report.

The Parent Council has agreed to support the Braes Award Ceremony again.

AOB

K MacKinnon asked about the Health and Wellbeing survey. 18 parents have opted out.

K MacKinnon enquired about budget implications. This is unclear yet.

K MacKinnon asked about council service reductions and community use of schools. There is no recent news. I Livingstone will continue to keep pupils needs and safety first.

D Surphlis asked about the car charging points in school. I Livingstone informed us that they are only to be used for Falkirk Council fleet cars.

Next meeting is 4 May 2022.