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## **Braes High School - Parent Council**

### **AGM - Monday 6 September 2021**

#### **Present:**

Kirsty Baird, Heather (Chair), Mr Livingstone, Liam McIntyre, Gordon Hughes, Adanna McCue, Donna Ainslie, George Burnett, James Robertson, Gracie Proudlock (pupil council), Julie Wilkinson, Kenneth MacKinnon, Marjorie Cotter, Wendy McPherson, Anne Watt, James Kerr, Claire Ward, David Surphlis, (2 more attendees that couldn't be identified- to be added at a later date)

#### **Apologies:**

Anna Duncan, Alison Mitchell, Neil McAulay, John McLuckie, Diane Dagger, Craig Duncan, Morag Lang

Approval of previous minutes:

Approved by Wendy MacPherson, seconded by Kenneth McKinnon

#### **Chairperson's Report:**

This past year has been a challenging one for everyone but thanks to technology, we have managed to meet online to hear from the school and discuss important matters. Despite the challenges faced, we have continued to be involved in supporting the school in several areas, some of which are listed below.

- consulting on BGE Guides for parents
- liaising with and encouraging Pupil Council
- liaising and encouraging Digital Leaders
- engaging with staff on approaches to learning and teaching and professional learning
- engaging with staff and making recommendations on supporting pupils in dealing with ACEs
- discussing arrangements for parental overview of home learning
- sharing resources and input from NPFS
- sourcing a parent representative for Falkirk Council Appeals panels
- engaging with senior pupils on their SQA learning, teaching and assessment experiences
- discussing the Blended Learning model from March 2021
- discussing and informing reopening arrangements in August 2020 and in March/April 2021
- engaging on arrangements for virtual parents' evenings
- discussing arrangements for remote learning
- discussing pastoral and wellbeing supports available for young people
- engaging with PT Family Learning on resources available to support parents/carers learning with young people
- creating a new information section for the Parent Council on the school website

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- discussing how parents/carers are supported in cancellation of overseas visits

A lot has changed for our young people but they have shown incredible resilience and have continued 'being part of it' throughout these last few months. We have all had to contend with longer than expected periods of remote learning and uncertainty around every corner. Throughout this time, the school has continued to keep us updated on supports in place for pupil's wellbeing and the ways in which they were providing for families in need. The digital leaders have shared their ideas for supporting parents, carers, staff and pupils in using technology to support learning. The Pupil Council have also kept us well informed about the work they have undertaken, and it was lovely to hear that they had awarded the Reddingmuirhead and Wallacetone Community Council Award to all of the pupils at Braes High School. This was a brilliant way to recognise the efforts of the whole school community.

We have searched, but been unable to find a Clerk and I want to thank everyone who has agreed to take minutes over this last year, sometimes at short notice. I know that for some this was the first time they had done this and I do really appreciate them having a go. I also wanted to note my thanks to Tim Gollins who was Vice Chair at the start of the year but unfortunately had to step down from the role. I would also like to thank Wendy, for her work as Treasurer, to Iain for making this job a lot easier, and to everyone else for coming along to meetings, contributing constructively to discussions and generally being supportive of me as I get to grips with this new role.

### **Update from School:**

Mr Livingstone introduced himself to new parents and welcomed them to the meeting of the Parent Council. He thanked the Parent council for their positive, constructive and productive work and provided an overview of the updates to be provided. He highlighted the important role parents and carers play and acknowledged the positive memories, challenges and pressures for teenagers through high school and that the aspiration of the school was for the young people to succeed and maximise their potential. He highlighted the young people should be proud of themselves during uncertain times and they kept up with learning, coped with a demanding period of assessment and followed Covid 19 procedures while being supported by family members. He acknowledged the school dealt with this and also the tragic passing of one of the young people as a community and that the school is at the heart of the community and they will continue to make a positive difference moving forward for all the young persons.

### **Pupil Council update – Gracie Proudlock:**

The Pupil Council has young persons from each form class with the S1-3 meeting and the S4-6 meeting with Mrs Rae and Mr Douglas and once a month the senior management attend. It is an avenue for the pupil voices to be part of decision making. Caitlin Campbell designed a new logo for the group. Some of the activities achieved in the past year were the funding of picnic tables for the outside space, inter house activities, the design of the Falkirk Council GIRFEC logo, school day change for junior pupils, junior awards ceremony. A video was also shown to the attendees.

Gracie detailed that initial discussions were held today regarding how to spend available funding and that a shortlist will be brought to the parent council for approval in the coming weeks.

### **Review of Young people's achievements - Marjorie Cotter:**

Mrs Cotter provided an overview of S4 data - 5 Nat 5 64%, 5 N4 94%, 5 Nat 3 96%. The school hoped for all pupils to achieve and leave with at least 5 N3 qualifications.

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S5 data – 5 L6 30%, 3 L6 63%, 1 L6 75%. This showed all achievements on the increase and the school are delighted for the pupils.

S6 data – 1 L7 25%, 5 L6 47%, 3 L3 59 %. This was healthy across the last 4 years and improving year on year.

It was reiterated the virtual comparator had not been released and that they were not comparing self against other schools but year on year improvement within the school.

The literacy was in line with previous years and in line with what was expected by teachers.

The numeracy was in line with previous years.

Impact on wider achievement takes the percentage of level 5 success up to 75 % with for example 124 pupils achieving success in Scottish Studies.

The question of exams/continuous assessment was raised and addressed. The young people are being consulted and there will be specific support provided., pupil council being consulted, study cafes, study skills. The achievements of the young people this year was acknowledged as they were assessed in a different way and had more than one exam in each subject.

Senior management team would prefer a blended approach of continuous assessment and exam.

### **Health and Wellbeing update – Julie Wilkinson and George Burnett:**

It was highlighted that the school are looking to empower young people and have positive wellbeing. They highlighted that procedures had to be adapted and developed to support young people, family and carers and staff over the past year.

A powerpoint was shared with the attendees highlighting support available and providing an understanding of health and wellbeing and providing recommendations.

The Health and Wellbeing referral was discussed and highlighted that staff could raise concerns about any pupil which would be sent to the pastoral head and investigated. To date there have been several referrals where teachers have taken responsibility.

There is also Health and Wellbeing Tracking and Monitoring and young people assess their own wellbeing through self-evaluation, and providing comments. This provides young people with an opportunity to make staff aware of how they may be feeling.

There is an educational award in mental health and wellbeing and this is removing the stigma and providing young people with coping strategies.

The Braes Brightside website will be launched shortly and Mr Burnett shared the website with the attendees, which included links to support agencies, current issues, links to pastoral heads, information for parents, podcasts and resources for teachers. It is a good structure and positive place for which to evolve and build upon moving forward. The website will be made accessible to the parent council for feedback. Senior management are collating feedback, pupil council collating feedback and there will be a mini launch at the staff in-service day in October with a launch thereafter in October.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Due to covid 19 and restrictions there has only been 1 transaction in the year which was grant money from the council. There is currently £1098.68 in account. The dux medals have still to be

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paid for and Linda Cranston will progress this. Pupil council will attend at the October meeting to discuss use of funds within the school.

### **Appointment of Auditor:**

In relation to the appointment of an auditor, Wendy asked that Laura Arbuckle should remain which was agreed.

### **Appointment of Office Bearers:**

Heather to continue as chair – Proposed by Donna Ainslie and seconded by Anne Watt

Kenneth MacKinnon offered to take on the role as Vice Chair – proposed by Donna Ainslie and seconded by Wendy McPherson

Alison Mitchell had suggested a change in the constitution to include a secretary rather than a paid clerk. This was agreed in principle but will be brought to the October meeting for approval.

Wendy MacPherson to remain as Treasurer. Proposed by James Robertson and seconded by Anne Watt.

### **The meeting was closed with the next meeting due to take place on Tuesday 19 October.**

Meeting dates for session 2021-2022

Mon 6 Sept

Tue 19 Oct

Wed 1 Dec

Thu 20 Jan

Mon 8 March

Wed 4 May

Thu 2 June

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