

BRAES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL



Annual General Meeting Thursday 29th August 2019

Present: Elspeth McCallum (Chair) Wendy MacPherson (Treasurer) Alison Mitchell (Parent)
Lynne Robertson (Parent). Katie Stanley (Parent), Kevin McKay (Parent) Donna Ainslie
(Parent), Carolyn Lowe (Parent), Diane Dagger (Parent), Heather McManus (Parent), Morag
Lang (Parent), Gordon Barclay (Parent), Tim Gollins (Parent), Claire Lawson (Parent)

In attendance: I Livingstone (Headteacher), Linda Cranston (Resource Manager), M Cotter (Depute
Headteacher) Julie Wilkinson (Pastoral Head) Emma Taylor (PEF Co-ordinator),

Apologies: Councillor McLuckie, Neil Macaulay (Parent), Councillor Adana McCue, Andrew
Donachie.(Vice Chair)

Welcome

Elspeth McCallum opened meeting and welcomed all in attendance

Previous Minutes

The minutes of previous AGM (18th September 2018) were approved. Proposed by Wendy
Macpherson and seconded by Alison Mitchell.

Updates from School

Iain Livingstone thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that there would be a slightly
different approach to this meeting as it is the AGM. Iain delivered his presentation on pupil progress,
pathways and attainment following the SQA exam results. (presentation attached)

Update on SQA Diet

Iain noted the following

- Testament to the work of the pupils, parents and staff
- Measuring attainment by each stage as they go through their educational journey.
- Year Group Data important.
- Exit Data matters most
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S4 Attainment – Key Points

- *Percentage of pupils gaining at least 5 NQ's increased to expected levels (58%)*
- *Sizeable amount of pupils gaining more than this due to Scottish Studies and double maths qualification*
- *5 at level 4 rose to 90%*
- *5 at level 3 or more rose to 98%*

S5 Attainment – Key Points

- Record High equalling performance in all measures with the exception 3 x higher percentage which is a new record high
- S5 did exceptionally well (5 at level 6 rose to 24%)
- 3 at level 6 or more rose to 46%
- 1 at level 6 or more rose to 65%
- 12 pupils gained 5A's
- 15 pupils midway through a Foundation Apprenticeship
- Accurate Estimates from Teaching Staff

S6 Attainment – Key Points

- Amongst the level 7 attainment are 6 pupils doing HNC's
- 126 pupils completed S6 (65% of Group). Based on cohort size when in S4
- Trend of approximately doubling 5 x H performance from S5 into S6 continues
- Reducing number of presentations at AH level (2017 was 81, 2018 was 70 , 2019 was 53)
- Pupils now undertaking alternative pathways

Iain introduced M Cotter, J Wilkinson and Emma Taylor who gave updates on the following:

Key element of School improvement Plan is Critical Skills Presented by M Cotter

- Skills Refresh 2019
- College staff into school
- Exciting Pathways
- Video from Pupils undertaking Higher Media, showcasing skills as articulated by pupils.
- Skills focus group – professional enquiry,
Reinvigorating our approach to developing skills and finding ways to link our lessons to the world of work.
- Parents invited to be part of this group and work with pupils to develop their skills.
- MC invited questions from the audience
- Parent (Tim Gollins) asked for Digital skills to be included.

Working in Partnership – Affording the School Day

Presented by J Wilkinson and E Taylor

- Onwards and Upwards attainment Challenge (PEF project)
- Use FME but have a referral system (170 pupil in total)
- Focus this year on the Cost of the Pupil Day
- Nat Priority to address poverty gap for young people
- BHS working to mitigate the effect of poverty and reduce barriers
- Poverty proof school

Stats affecting our Young people – Joint income thresholds

- Free school meals is £6,420
- School Clothing Grant threshold is £16,105

- EMA £24,421 for 1 child or £26,884 for more than 1 child (don't get this if you are undertaking Advanced Highers)

Braes High School Ethos

- Reduce , reuse, recycle (Eco Gp)
- Be Part of It
- Supporting all Yong people to gain the very best opportunities

Existing Projects

- Breakfast Club
- Uniform exchange
- Support for Fundraising Trips
- Braes Box (similar idea to baby boxes full of resources)
- Supported Study Evenings
- Pupil Premium
- Onwards and Upwards
- Fab Support Events
- Fundraising

New Ideas

- Non Uniform recycling
 - ✓ Prom dresses /Suits
 - ✓ Gym kit
 - ✓ Winter Clothes Drive
 - ✓ Give back to Braes Proj (school bags for S1)
- Back to School Market Place
- Hairdresser
- Uniform Collection
- Braes launderette
- Prepare your packed lunch
- School Bank
 - ✓ Business Donations
 - ✓ Just Giving
 - ✓ Volunteering
- How Parents can help
 - ✓ Uniform
 - ✓ Trips
 - ✓ Travel
 - ✓ Food
 - ✓ Clubs
 - ✓ Home Learning
 - ✓ Attitudes (Stigma around Poverty)
- Suggestions from Group
 - ✓ Meal makers (sign up to cook a meal)
 - ✓ Families sign up to take the meal

- ✓ Gifts for Christmas

Chair's Report to Parent Forum

Elspeth McCallum presented the work of the Parent Council over the past year, which was a busy year (see attached)

Treasurer's Report

Wendy Macpherson highlighted the financial activity since the previous AGM as follows:

Opening Balance was £252.59

Income of £571 (Admin Payment to Parent Council)

Expenditure of £80 (Clerks payments)

Expenditure of £80 (Dux Medal)

Balance at 31st July 2019 is £663.59

£500 to go to pupil council once we have their proposals

Appointment of Auditor

Wendy Macpherson nominated Laura Arbuckle (who currently audits Wallacestone Primary Parent Council Accounts). Agreed by group.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Elspeth McCallum was happy to continue as Chair Person. No Objections

Vice Chair open until next meeting

Wendy Macpherson was happy to continue as Treasurer. No objections

Close of Business

Elspeth thanked all in attendance

Next Parent Council Tuesday 8th October

Note to members as agreed at meeting

During the meeting it was noted that analysing S6 performance on the basis of the cohort size when in S4 does not give the full picture, given the multiple pathways young people follow. As a follow-up to the meeting the following observations can be made :

When considering the performance of young people based on the number of pupils who completed S6, the percentage of pupils who gained at least one SCQF Level 7 award moves from 19% to 27%, the percentage of pupils who gained 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 moves from 31% to 47% and the percentage of pupils who gained 3 or more awards at SCQF Level 6 moves from 47% to 72%.