



Chairperson:

Mr Matthew Cox
33 Setters Hill Estate
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Clerk:

Miss H Sinclair
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Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022, at 6pm, Baltasound Junior High School.

Mrs Jane Macaulay Mrs Lisa Johnson Mrs Vaila Thomason
Mrs Karen Gray Mrs Lauren Spence Mrs Linda Thomson

Mr Paul Thomson Miss Hazel Sinclair

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Matthew Cox, Erika Brown, Murray Brown and Victoria Mouat.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Read and approved.

Matters Arising from Minutes

Prizegiving – Held on Thursday 23rd June – a successful evening. Alternative awards were celebrated, with awards given out for Art, Business and Computing and English.

SWOT – Staff retention/recruitment still a weakness. English post acceptance only for the successful candidate to change their mind a month later. The post was offered to the reserve candidate who accepted, but will need to be GTC registered before she is able to start. This would realistically be after the October break. Business and Computing post advertised but no suitable candidates – this is being covered by Paul. Ian McConnell has retired – Matthew Ronalds is now in post (1 FTE between Mid Yell and Baltasound). Anne Karine Strachan will be going on maternity leave at October, so music will need cover for 1 year. Margaret Fordyce is now in Lower Primary full time – this leaves 10 ½ hrs Nursery Teacher – advertising was unsuccessful for this – it will be covered by Ashley. The Kitchen is being covered by Louise Doull and Valerie McMillan who are job sharing.

Plan for Year / Fundraising

After a break in parents being able to come in to school (covid) discussion was held on potential events/fundraisers which could be held – among those were;
November Shopping Night / Christmas Concert / Up Helly Aa Coffee Morning / Farmers Market Teas (the Parent Council are booked in for this on 11th December) / Term 4 Garden Party.

Improvement Plan

Improvement Plan 2022/2023 – Raising Attainment (Reading) / Pedagogy / Health & Wellbeing.

Reading – Hoping for reading schools accreditation from the Scottish Book Trust.
Questionnaires have been sent out to parents and staff. Group overseen by Ashley.
Pedagogy – Arts of Teaching / Improving Teaching in School. Group overseen by Paul.
Health & Wellbeing – Group overseen by Angela.

Paul asked if anyone would like to be part of any of the working groups. This would mean they could attend meetings and be added to an email list keeping them up to date on progress.

Reading – Karen & Lauren

Pedagogy – Lisa

Health & Wellbeing – Linda, Vaila and Jane.

With rising costs in energy bills and food shopping causing added stress and anxiety to the already stressful lives of parents there was discussion on possible ways to help.

Linda shared how the 'community hub' based in Brae are there for drop in sessions and said they also offer out recycled sports equipment and clothes/shoes for free.

Could we offer clothes swap shops for recycled Halloween costumes and Christmas Jumpers? This would need to be done sooner rather than later because students return to school after the October break on 26th October.

Costumes/Jumpers could be hung up in size order in the porch for a couple of days before the end of this term. An email will be sent out to parents before the end of the week asking for parents to donate unwanted items which can then be recycled.

School Lunches / Waiting in Line

Unfortunate circumstances 1 day last week meant that some secondary students missed break because the lunch queue was so slow – this was a mixture of classes coming to lunch late and menu choices on that day. How could things be streamlined so the queue can move a little quicker?

Could water, cutlery and fruit be put onto tables before the lunchtime rush starts? Paul will speak to Neil Beattie and make sure these ideas meet with any present covid guidelines.

Online Accordion Lessons

There are 2 students currently taking accordion lessons in the Primary Department. There have been a few problems with online lessons – would it not be possible to face to face lessons?

Paul has been in contact with Noelle Henderson who said that parents had chosen online lessons at the start of the session so this will not change this year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Baltasound Parent Council will be at the start of Term 2.

AOCB

Dux Medal Criteria

Some parents were wondering why the Dux Medal had not been awarded in Term 4 last academic year. The medal has not been awarded every year recently and should not be expected as a given. Many other alternative prizes and certificates which are more appropriate to classes/class sizes are now awarded.

The Dux Medal should be awarded for Academic Excellence – it has historical significance and should be kept as a future award for students who meet the criteria.

P6/7 Trips – S1/2?

Loch Inch Outdoor Centre for a 6/7 trip is a possibility, but it is rapidly getting booked up. A trip for the S1/2 students who have missed out because of Covid will also need to be looked at. Paul will collate numbers, look for costs and approach Cooke / Saxavord Spaceport and source funding.