

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting
Wed 24th April 2024 at 6.30pm
Conference/e-Learning Room



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell (Chairperson), Emma Brown (Deputy Chair), Josephine Docherty, Jonathan Hagen, Lorna Russell, Lyssa McCartney, Rosemary Logie, David Bulloch

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher) & Ian Watson (PT Guidance),

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of School Captains - Caitlin & Ross, David Codling, Heather Knox, Karen McGimpsey, Kirsty Thomson, Lesley Strain, Lynsey Pollock, Karen Harley and Pamela Gray. (Both Karen Harley and Pamela Gray tendered their resignations, given their children had now left S6)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (27th March 2024)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 27th March 2024 was approved by Graeme McLean and seconded by Rosemary Logie, as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- a) **Missing Cheque:** The cheque for prize-giving gifts in 2023 (£120) has been misplaced. Given the time lapse, it was agreed that a replacement may be issued and the bank instructed to cancel the original cheque. **ACTION: D Bulloch**
- b) **Belmont has Talent:** Given the recent Easter break, Mr McLean had not had the opportunity to speak to colleagues regarding this event – agreed to carry this item forward. **ACTION: G McLean**
- c) **Consultation on School Holidays:** Recognising that teaching staff and parents have an opportunity to vote on school holiday dates, Mr Boyd agreed to query why pupils don't have an opportunity to vote also - agreed to carry this item forward. **ACTION: K Boyd**
- d) **Senior Prom** – Mr Boyd had spoken to the School Captains with a proposal for him to speak at the senior prom – he awaited their feedback. **ACTION: School Captains**
- e) **Belmont Funding Futures** – Chair, Susan Bell and Deputy Chair, Emma Brown both intimated their apologies for the next meeting (29 May), they proposed a meeting with pupil council representatives to determine what the pupils may wish to be involved in with regards fund-raising. **ACTION: S Bell / E Brown**
- f) **Dangers re astro pitches** – A meeting is scheduled between Mr Boyd and Mitie and he will ask about the risk assessments for the pitches at Belmont Academy and feedback at the next meeting. **ACTION: K Boyd**

4. Treasurer's Report

David Bulloch confirmed there was no change since the last meeting with no expenditure nor income to report and Belmont Parent Council bank account currently holding a **credit balance of £1498.31**, A prize giving cheque totalling £240 was issued at the Meeting (£120 last year's missing cheque and £120 for this year's prize giving gifts), reducing the balance to £1258.31.

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting
Wed 24th April 2024 at 6.30pm
Conference/e-Learning Room



Approval was granted for David to order a card reader acknowledging this will attract a 1.75% transaction fee. **ACTION: D Bulloch**

5. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

- a) **P7/S1 Transition:** Guidance team and Support for Learning have been preparing for the new S1 intake. Arrangements are in place for all primary school P7 pupils to have the opportunity to visit Belmont Academy and gain general transitional information – the next dates for visits are 11-12 June. There are also enhanced transitions planned for pupils from cluster primary schools where it has been highlighted that some pupils need enhanced support.

The pupil numbers for S1 intake are currently:

Associated		Non-associated	
School	Number	School	Number
Alloway	52		
Braehead	23	Dalmilling	5
Doonfoot	50	Glebe	1
Holmston	24	Grammar	4
Kincaidston	26	Newton	2
Tarbolton	31	Patna	3
Total	206	Total	15
Anticipated total intake: 221			

(Mr Boyd advised consideration was being granted for outdoor learning opportunities for S1-S3 pupils, to bolster outdoor learning embedded at nursery and primary school, with a view to allocating PEF funding). This will be confirmed in due course. **ACTION: K Boyd**

- b) **S1 reports** – these have been issued to teaching staff for comments.

6. Head Teacher Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) Staffing

Overall our current staffing levels are very good. We continue to face temporary shortages in English and Technical. The SQA study leave for seniors has now alleviated the majority of the difficulties around this.

Nina Melville is the preferred candidate for the Acting PT Guidance (Cumbrae) post and will cover for Rose Dunlop's upcoming maternity leave. Nina will take up post on Monday, 29 April. We have two upcoming PT posts to be filled, PT Design & Technical and PT Music. Bids for NQTs have been submitted and we will find out allocations mid-May.

b) S6 Leavers' Trip

The S6 Leavers' Trip and BBQ on Friday, 19 April was a great success and feedback from young people was extremely positive. HT will send a thank you letter to Kilwinning Sports Centre along with a donation to convey our ongoing appreciation of their support. Thanks to Mrs Flanagan for leading sixth year and for co-ordinating the day to be such a success.

c) S6 Teacher Appreciation Awards Ceremony

S6 students organised an awards ceremony for teachers on Wednesday, 17 April to recognise and thank teachers for their support over their time at the Academy. This was an excellent event that was very well received from staff.

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting
Wed 24th April 2024 at 6.30pm
Conference/e-Learning Room



d) **SQA Examinations**

I am delighted to report that the SQA examination diet has started smoothly and we are up and running. Pupil attendance for Accounting, Media, PE, Geography and Music has been excellent and we are happy with the papers so far. The exam diet continues with physics tomorrow.

As I said previously, I wish all of our SP students every success for the SQA diet. To parents/carers of SP students, I hope that your fridge is well stocked and you experience some brief moments of peace and tranquillity. We know what a stressful time this can be for families and this was why we delivered an Exams Stress Workshop earlier in the session.

e) **Staff Training**

Tomorrow night's staff training session focusses on supporting Young Carers and a staff update and consultation on Promoting Positive Relationships. During the in-service day all staff will also participate in a two-hour training session looking at de-escalation techniques.

f) **S1 Roll**

Our new S1 predicted roll is sitting at 221 pupils. Our whole school roll remains to be very healthy.

7. **Belmont Funding Futures (BFF)**

Emma Brown agreed to liaise with Mrs Flanagan with a view to herself and Susan Brown meeting the pupil council members to survey them with regards future fund-raising opportunities.

ACTION: E Brown

It was suggested that an art exhibition be organised for November 2024.

8. **Any Other Business**

a) **School Uniform:** It was proposed that pupils and parents be consulted on a change to the school uniform, with the introduction of Belmont-branded hoodies, recognising fewer pupils are wearing school blazers and the introduction of school branded hoodies would discourage pupils from wearing hoodies emblazoned with alternative slogans.

ACTION: G McLean

b) **Merit Scheme:** It is likely that there will be tweaks made to the merit scheme next year, with it being mooted that S1-S3 would have a similar experience to which pupils had this year, however, S4-S5 would possibly have the opportunity to go to Blackpool Pleasure Beach or Alton Towers (alternating options each year).

c) **End of term Parent Council Dinner:** Mr McLean to check the school calendar and notify Josephine Docherty of some options for an end of term dinner, for those who wished to attend. Josephine to gauge availability from members and confirm the preferred date.

ACTION: J Docherty

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 29th May 2024** at **6.30pm** in the **Conference/e-Learning Room** within Belmont Academy. Mr McLean agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of Chair and Vice Chair.