

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 29th May 2024 at 6.30pm

Conference / e-Learning Room



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell, Josephine Docherty, David Bulloch, David Codling, Jonathan Hagen, Karen McGimpsey, Kirsty Thomson, Lorna Russell.

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Ian Watson (PT Guidance), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of Emma Brown, Heather Knox, Karen Harley, Lyssa McCartney, Lesley Strain, Rosemary Logie & Graeme McLean.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (24th April 2024)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 24th April 2024 was approved by Heather Knox and seconded by Josephine Docherty, as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Missing prize-giving cheque – a replacement cheque was issued at the meeting to replace the 2023 payment which had been misplaced (£120) and for 2024 prize giving monies (£120), total payment £240.
- b) Belmont has talent – agreed to carry forward this action to Sep/Oct
ACTION: G McLean
- c) Consultation on school holidays – Mr Boyd confirmed that pupils had been consulted on school holidays, with S1-S6 pupil council members asked to vote on behalf of their year groups. Coincidentally, pupils, teachers and parents had all voted the same.
- d) Pupil Council Survey – agreed to carry forward to understand what the pupils wish to be involved in with regards fund-raising activities for the new term.
ACTION: S Bell / E Brown
- e) Dangers re astro pitches – Mr Boyd had received a position statement from Mitie on the reported dangers of the material composition used for astro pitches and confirmed there had been a commission instructed as there are two factors for consideration:
 - (1) Rubber infill composition and associated health and safety risks for any users;
 - (2) Environmental impact.

Mr Boyd confirmed there were no immediate concerns for Belmont Academy, who had new astro pitches installed in 2023, with materials unaffected by those within the commissioned study.

- f) Card Reader – Treasurer, David Bulloch explained the standard card reader issued by the bank had associated charges, so had explored alternative options and realised the Sum-up card reader to be more cost-effective with a one-off £60 charge for the reader and 1.69% for each transaction, with income from the card

reader added to the bank account every 2-3 days. Agreed this should be ordered for Parent Council fund-raising activity. **ACTION: D Bulloch**

- g) Outdoor Learning – there is a likelihood there will be PEF funding to enable an element of outdoor learning for S1-S3 – this is dependent on staffing availability. Agreed to carry forward to the new term. **ACTION: K Boyd**
- h) School Uniform Survey – Mr Boyd confirmed he'd approved final content for a parental survey relating to (a) school uniform dress code; (b) mobile phone use in school; (c) Bee Positive merit scheme. The survey is due to be issued to parents tomorrow (30 May). Results will be advised in due course. **ACTION: K Boyd**
- i) End of term PC Dinner – following consultation, there was a tie between venues – Fox & Willow or The Stravaig. Members opted to choose The Stravaig and Josephine to make booking for 7pm on Tue 18 Jun. **ACTION: J Docherty**

4. Treasurer's Report

David Bulloch reported a current bank balance of £1498.31, less £120 prize-giving money for 2024 (the previous £120 (misplaced cheque) had been accounted for). There was no income to report, leaving a balance of £1378.31.

5. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

- a) S1 intake – Mr & Mrs Bryden are currently in the process of finalising the composition of S1 classes. Currently there are 218 S1 pupils expected to join Belmont in August (128 boys / 90 girls). Each class is likely to have approx. 5 care experience pupils and there will be circa 12/30 pupils with additional support needs (ASN) - approx. 40% of the class. This is a rise since the covid pandemic when that figure was circa 20%. Mr Boyd confirmed Belmont Academy gets the highest percentage of classroom assistants within South Ayrshire.
- b) Transition Programme – it was recognised that pupils submitting placing requests for Belmont Academy instead of attending their cluster secondary school do not benefit from the P7 transition opportunities as those pupils coming to Belmont from cluster primary schools.
- c) P7 Transition Days – P7 cluster primary pupils have the opportunity to attend Belmont Academy on Tue and Wed 11/12 Jun to meet staff and have a tour of the school campus.
- d) S1 Parents Evening – Current P7 parents whose children are transitioning to S1 have the opportunity to attend an information evening on Thu 13 June within Belmont Academy (6-7pm). Support from Parent Council sought. **ACTION: S Bell**
- e) Attendance - South Ayrshire Council plan on having a focus campaign “every learner, every day” in an attempt to improve school attendance, which will be played on local radio as well as a poster campaign, with high attenders selected to front the campaign, given there is a high correlation between attendance and attainment levels. Even primary schools are reporting higher than normal absence figures and it is hoped the local campaign will see an effective change, with families building resilience to encourage attendance and ultimately, attainment.

From August, there will be a procedure introduced for parents to report absence via the Parents Portal app for sickness absence or medical appointments etc.

6. Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) Staffing

Mr Brian Sinclair DHT has decided to retire at the end of this session. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Sinclair for his tremendous service to our school community over the years.

Recruitment of a new DHT will begin next week with an advert going live on Tuesday. The Assessment Centre takes place on Thursday, 20 June. Candidates will undertake five activities: Tour of the school (led by pupils); Interview from staff; Interview from pupils (joined by PC member); Professional dialogue with the HT; and a written task. Final interviews will take place on Friday, 21 June. I request two members of the PC to be panel members.

ACTION: S Bell

We have several posts advertised at the moment. They include:

- PT Design & Technical
- PT Music
- Teacher(s) of Mathematics (2.0 FTE permanent & 0.4 FTE temp)
- Teacher of Technical (1.0 FTE permanent)
- Teacher of Computing (0.4 FTE temp)
- School Assistant (27.5 hours).

In addition, we have successfully bid for NQTs in the following subjects:

- Art (Jillian MacDonald)
- French (Emma Blain)
- Modern Studies (Finlay Matthews)
- PE (Sydni Campbell).

Experience tells me that there will be further changes to staffing prior to August.

b) School Improvement Visit

Lyndsay McRoberts (Director of Education), Scott Mulholland (Assistant Director of Education) and several other colleagues visited us on Thursday, 23 May for our improvement visit. This was an extremely positive meeting and I would like to personally thank colleagues and young people (via video) who presented on the day. Discussion centred around our own self-evaluation, celebrating success in attainment and achievement and priorities for next session. During the morning our guests were able to visit our S2 Cyber Day and the S3 Art Alloway Tunnel mural project. We received excellent feedback from Lyndsay and our other visitors.

c) SQA Examinations

I am delighted to report that the SQA examination diet has ran smoothly and we have come to the end of the diet today. Attendance has been excellent and the conduct of our young people has been exemplary and I wish them every success on results day – Tuesday, 6 August 2024. A huge thank you to Mr Sinclair (SQA Co-ordinator), Mrs Slider (AAA), Mr Dunlop (Chief Invigilator) and the wider team.

d) New timetable

Thank you to Mrs Flanagan for the successful completion of the new school timetable. New S2/3/4 started their new timetable yesterday. Now that the exam diet has finished, S5 and S6 Induction Days are taking place this week ahead of the new timetable on Monday, 3 June.

e) S6 Leavers' Celebration

We are looking forward to welcoming our outgoing S6 students and their family members at our annual S6 Leavers' Celebration. We hope that up to 200 people will attend tomorrow evening.

f) S6 Prom

We look forward to S6 Prom at Brig O'Doon on Wednesday, 12 June.

g) Rewards Day

Mrs McCaig is finalising arrangements for our (old) S4/5 Rewards Day on Monday, 24 June. Information has been shared on Teams and details will be shared with parents/carers.

h) Awards Ceremonies

Mr McLean and key staff are making very good progress for our Awards ceremonies. BGE & SP Prize-Giving takes place on Tuesday, 25 June. Celebration of Success Assemblies take place on Wednesday, 26 June. Our Sports Awards Ceremony takes place on the evening of Wednesday, 26 June.

7. Any Other Business

Jonathan Hagen queried whether the school had any influence on the bus companies who continue to send single decker buses on routes where demand levels require double decker buses, resulting in some children being left behind at bus stops. Mr Boyd explained the school had no influence on service buses, unfortunately. After discussion, it was understood this was likely to be resultant in availability of drivers and/or buses within Stagecoach.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wed 25 Sept 2024 at 6.30pm – including AGM