



Present:

School Members: Graeme McLean (DHT), Kevin Boyd (HT), Ian Watson (PT), Lynsey Pollock (PT), Mabel Jack (Captain), Olivia Ferguson (Captain).

Parent Members: Aynsley Lawrence, David Codling, Emma Brown, Heather Knox, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Doon, Kirsty Thomson, Lorna Russell, Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Lynne Yuille, Lyssa McCartney, Rosemary Logie, Sarah MacLeod, Susan Bell, Vicky Pang & Katie Ludkin.

Apologies: Josephine Docherty, Karen McGimpsey, Lesley Strain, Tonie McCormack & David Bulloch

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and as there are many new members, she reminded the council that this is not the forum to bring personal or their own children's concerns to the meeting, If there are any personal items that require to be discussed please see Susan or School team at the end of the meeting for advice on how to address.

Susan intimated apologies on behalf of Josephine Docherty, Karen McGimpsey, Lesley Strain & Tonie McCormack

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (29th May 2024)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 29th May 2024 was approved by Ian Watson and seconded by Lynsey Pollock, as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Belmont has talent- proposed date – February 2025. **Action G McLean**
- b) Pupil Council Survey – carried forward as the new pupil leadership team is now in place. Emma asked school captains to meet to discuss the support which Parent Council can provide. **Action E Brown/S Bell**
- c) Card Reader – David was not in attendance; Susan will contact him for an update **Action S Bell/D Bulloch**
- d) Outdoor Learning – This is being discussed internally and hopefully will be implemented in some capacity this term. **Action K Boyd**
- e) School Uniform Survey – This has been completed and an order has been placed for school-branded clothing. **COMPLETE**
- f) End of Term dinner – Parent Council Members had enjoyed a lovely meal at the end of term at The Stravaig, Ayr. **COMPLETE**
- g) S1 Parents event – Susan attended and gave a speech to parents and offered a sign-up sheet for new S1 parents, some of those were in attendance at the meeting. **COMPLETE**
- h) Staffing - Heather and Susan were involved in the DHT recruitment process, for which Mrs Flannigan was successful and appointed to the role. **COMPLETE**

4. Treasurer's Report

Report not received – Treasurer, David Bulloch had sent his apologies for the meeting. Report to follow.

5. Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

Mr Watson delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the statistics from the S1 transition questionnaire (settling-in) which asked the S1 students to rate (Strongly Agree / Agree / Disagree / Strongly Disagree):

- I feel welcome and safe at Belmont Academy
- I have had a positive experience in my first few weeks at Belmont Academy
- I have felt supported by my new classmates/buddy
- I know who my Guidance Teacher is and how I can speak to them
- If I had any issues / concerns I would feel able to talk to my Guidance Teacher

The PowerPoint also included sections on:

- HOPE – The UK's most performed anti-bullying production.
- Attendance Matters – the benefits of going to school.
- University College Admission Services (UCAS) – 67 pupils (49%) have registered so far.
- University College Admission Services (UCAS) – 102 applications were sent last year.

Mr Watson to link with R Logie on information regarding student debt. **ACTION: I Watson**

Mr Watson to link with A Bryden re effective communication and the impact attendance can have on learning. **ACTION: I Watson**

6. Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

A warm welcome was extended to everyone from Head Teacher, Kevin Boyd.

a) Roll/Staffing

Census day took place on 12th September and our roll was confirmed as 1201 pupils. 220 S1 have had a positive start and young people have settled in quickly. The overall picture in SA is a falling school roll in primaries and secondaries. This has led to reduced staffing across schools.

We are staffed at 81.5 FTE and this is a decrease of 3.8 FTE from last session. We no longer have the additional 2.7 FTE additional staffing (Covid Recovery) and our slight drop in roll accounts for a 0.8 FTE reduction. That said, we are, once again, the largest secondary school in SAC. As I have said previously, this is helpful in terms of our continued capacity to support young people and deliver a wide range of curricular pathways and experiences. Whilst accommodation in the Academy continues to be very tight, it remains manageable at this level. Thanks to Mrs Flanagan for her hard work and solution-focussed approach to whole school timetabling.

New staff:

- Miss Jennifer Donaghy – HE (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Lewis McWilliams – Maths (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Jack Cowan – Maths (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Hayley Keenan – Music (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Chloe Elliot – D&T (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Kara Mackin – D&T (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Danielle Connolly – Business Ed (Temp 1.0 FTE mat leave)
- Mrs Anne Nicol – Business Ed (Temp 0.6 FTE later in term)
- Miss Gillian Murray – Computing (Temp 0.4 FTE)
- Miss Jodie Mackie – Cluster staff (0.6 FTE)
- Miss Daniell Dalton – School Assistant (starts on Tuesday)
- Miss Ana McCallum – School Assistant (Temp)

Returning staff:

- Mrs Amy Andrews – Chemistry (Perm f/w 0.6 FTE)
- Mr Daniel Gurney – D&T (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Ms Zoe Watson – History & Mods (Temp 1.0 FTE) – left to Ayr Academy
- Ms Jennifer Risk – History (Temp 0.6 FTE)
- Miss Kirsty Nisbet – Science (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Stacey Healy – School Assistant (f/w later in term)

NQTs:

- Miss Jillian MacDonald – Art
- Mr Finlay Matthews (Modern Studies)
- Miss Emma Blain (French)
- Miss Sydni Campbell (PE) - FP

Acting posts:

- Mrs Ross McMahon – Acting DHT (Kintyre House) - Val Gibson 4th November
- Mrs Sarah Kyle – Acting PT Design & Technical
- Miss Nina Melville – Acting PTG (Cumbrae House)
- Miss Kat Beck – Acting PTG (Lomond House)
- Ms Shona Hamilton (Administration Assistant)

Adverts:

Current open adverts are:

- 1.0 FTE Teacher of English
- 0.4 FTE Teacher of English (Temp)
- Two Clerical Assistants (Temp).

I am pleased to report that our levels of staff absence are currently low, however we do have two members of staff who are off long term. Staffing remains challenging in the English department, however this has eased significantly from last session. Overall our staffing situation is reasonably settled for the moment and we have had a positive start to the new session.

b) S6 Leadership Team 2024-2025

We appointed the S6 Leadership Team prior to the summer holiday and Mrs Flanagan is working closely with them, including activity related to the Pupil Improvement Plan. Representatives of School Captains Team will join Parent Council meetings to report on their work and wider school activities. I am delighted that our two School Captains, Mabel Jack and Olivia Ferguson, have been able to join us this evening.

c) Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities are up and running with many sports activities taking place throughout the week. Other clubs and activities are also being organised and getting up and running.

d) Cost of the School Day

The cost of living continues to impact on all members of the school community. We have reintroduced free toast for all pupils each morning and this has been received positively by our young people. We have purchased a large amount of school uniform and expanded our dress code to include hoodies and zip tops. We have a growing amount of lost property and are looking into solutions for this. I seek the PC's support with this, and we can return to this at our next meeting.

ACTION: J DOCHERTY (add to Agenda)

[Uniformerly – Buy, Sell and Give Away outgrown school uniform to other parents at your school](#)

[I'm on the PTA – Uniformerly](#)

e) **Senior Phase Attainment**

Thank you to all staff, led by Mr Sinclair (SQA Co-ordinator), for their support and hard work to successfully deliver the SQA diet. Congratulations to all young people on their achievements.

SQA attainment remains extremely strong in the Senior Phase. We are currently more than halfway through the 18 Departmental Review Meetings and will undertake our Directorate SP Results Visit on Tuesday, 8 October.

HT delivered a short presentation on attainment data.

Mr Boyd agreed to organise information sessions for parents explaining SQA qualifications and alternative paths. **ACTION: K BOYD**

7. Belmont Funding Futures Update (Emma Brown)

Emma explained to new members the aims and goals of BFF and asked for ideas on fundraising, Emma is going to compile a list of dates and events to be provided with minutes highlighting events that will require parent council support. **ACTION: E Brown**

8. Any Other Business

No further matters raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wed 30 October 2024 at 6.30pm – council members will be met at reception and advised of location.