



## **Balmuidy Primary School Parent Council Minutes**

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025**

**6.30pm-8pm at Turnbull High School**

**Present:** Marianne MacLeod (Chairperson), Stephanie Fowler (Vice-Chairperson), Charlotte Grogan (Headteacher); Councillor Linda Williamson, Heather Glass (also PTA rep), Sean Kelly, Rev. Susan Anderson, Wilma Heaney, Hazel Fisher, Rania Henderson, Oliver Henrich,

**Apologies:** Kelly O'Neill (Clerk), Councillor Gordon Low

#### **Agenda items**

1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. Any other Business (AOB)

### **1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

#### **2023/24 Annual Report**

Marianne MacLeod (Chairperson) welcomed attendees and provided a summary of the 2023/24 annual report. The annual report covers key Parent Council (PC) activities and discussions in the 2023/24 academic year. 2023/24 annual report to be uploaded to the Balmuidy PS website.

Our current PC Office Bearers have requested to step down or step back/share duties and new Office Bearers were sought at the AGM. Thank you to our Office Bearers Marieanne MacLeod (Chairperson), Stephanie Fowler (Vice-Chairperson), and Kelly O'Neill (Clerk) for their dedication and support, in particular, for assisting with re-establishing the Parent Council (post-Covid) and supporting East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) with Marieanne interviewing Headteacher candidates. Special mention to Kelly O'Neill who has been the Parent Council Clerk for 12 years. Thank you for your dedication and time.

Office Bearers nominated and agreed until the next AGM are:

- Chairpersons (Joint) – Sean Kelly, Marieanne MacLeod
- Vice-Chairperson – Stephanie Fowler
- Clerk - Wilma Heaney

2023/24 Annual Report topic items that generated further discussion:

- **Dog mess** –The amount of dog mess has **not** significantly reduced despite the school grounds being locked overnight, at weekends and over school holidays. We want to promote a positive learning environment for our children, but dog mess continues to be a hazard and impacts play and learning. One pupil had to miss lessons to return home to remove dog mess from their hair - a particularly distressing experience for all involved. Dog walkers are still accessing the school grounds when gates are opened for school preparation at 7am; and in one instance a dog walker had to be asked to leave the grounds when pupils were in school.

**Actions already in delivery**

- 1) Councillor Williamson has brought the matter to East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) and the potential for a Bylaw to prohibit dog walkers from all EDC schools is being considered.
  - 2) The PTA has funds for signage on school gates and signs should be available in the coming weeks. Communication to be delivered across several platforms (school, local media, social media) when signage is installed.
  - 3) the school grounds will continue to be locked outwith school hours to discourage dog walkers. This also unfortunately reduces the amount of play space available for local children but is hoped to be a temporary measure until there is a change in behaviour from dog walkers.
- **Communication** – available Parent Council (PC) communication platforms include seesaw (closed group), Facebook (closed group), PC email, school office email and school website. Website content has improved with the new Headteacher obtaining access to edit some areas of the website. PC minutes still need upload by EDC staff and upload is consistently delayed. This is a barrier to communicating with the wider community and Councillor Williamson will escalate within EDC. The most appropriate PC comms options will be considered by Office Bearers and in future PC meetings.
  - **Class structure** – Class re-structuring was discussed in general. (*Note - This has previously been covered in two PC meetings (and minutes) in 2023 and 2024.*) Class re-structuring remains an open option for every year group in Balmuildy PS depending on various factors including class sizing and pupil needs. In previous years, classes have been reviewed in spring. Parents with specific concerns are encouraged to contact the school directly.

## 2. Any other Business (AOB)

- **Purpose of the Parent Council** is to cover whole school issues. Individual issues can be brought to the attention of teachers or the school office.
- **Class representatives/sharing of Parent Council (PC) duties** – there was a desire to share PC duties amongst PC members this coming year to better share the load. Potential for also introducing class/year representatives to engage with fellow yeargroup parents and share concerns/positive feedback with the parent council. For future consideration.
- **Disclosure Scotland** – Disclosure Scotland Check process is changing in April 2025. **ACTION** - C Grogan (Headteacher) to provide clarification on the guidance.