



Balmuildy Primary School
Parent Council Minutes - Tues 29th April 2025
6.30pm-8pm 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

1. Head Teacher Report - Mrs Grogan

- Poverty related attainment gap

Mrs Grogan updated on the Scottish Government initiative that aims to support and close the poverty related attainment gap in Scotland. The funding allocated to the school allowed a temporary teacher to be allocated with this role ending in March 2025. The output was extremely successful with a full intervention program being implemented successfully that will continue to be maintained and progressed moving forward.

This funding will be available for the next academic year, the intention is to review the data from this process and identify how this will be spent next term.

- Referral from/to Educational Psychologist

The school has a referral process in place where if a child is identified as needing access to an Education Psychologist, this is progressed through the Pupil Support Group. Mrs Grogan updated the Educational Psychologist is on a career break and has spoken to the Head Psychologist who confirmed they are looking to replace the position; however this is still in recruitment stage so the current service will remain in place until the recruitment process is complete. Any questions around the referral process parents are asked to speak to the class teacher in the first instance or to the Deputy Head Teacher and they would be happy to help with any queries or concerns.

- Class Organisation/Reconfiguration

Mrs Grogan confirmed there will be no reconfiguration to the classes this year, there will be in total 14 classes and children will remain in the class they are currently in.

- Class finishing times/dismissal

Mrs Grogan confirmed for P1 children there is a 'soft' start and finish to the day. Children are allowed in the class 5 mins before the bell, and finish 5 minutes before 15:00pm. This is to allow the younger children to leave school before the bigger children come out and is also useful if parents are also picking up older children.

2. Future P7 Residential Trip - Mrs Sutherland

Mrs Sutherland provided details on the destinations being considered for the P7 residential trip, including: Ardmay; Lockerbie Manor; Inverclyde Sports Centre and Ardroy Lochgoilead.

Ardmay now is the preferred option and offers a family atmosphere, outdoor sporting activities including canoeing and abseiling and 24 hour medical care in case of emergencies. This is also the common destination choice for other schools in Kirkintilloch and Bearsden.

To ensure as many children are included as possible and to support parents, it was agreed to allow the trip fee to be paid over 2 years which would start in P6. If parents agree to the monthly payment process they would receive a payment card to keep a track of all payments made and receive a gentle monthly reminder to ensure the trip is kept in mind.

3. New School Build

The Councillor confirmed the new school build will go ahead due to the increase in tax payments. The initial work done to some extent needs to be revisited, but reassurance was provided the build will definitely go ahead. No dates have been confirmed and the Councillor will update as things progress.

4. Dogs in school ground

The Councillor updated the council are considering the feasibility of implementing an EDC wide policy where no dogs are allowed in school grounds. Multiple incidents have been noted where people are not paying attention to signage in the school, so this approach is now being considered. The Councillor will provide further updates as discussions progress.

AOB

5. School Placement

All placements received this year have been met and approved.

6. School Uniform

Mrs Grogan updated school uniforms are optional, as long as children comply with the school colours they do not enforce the uniform. The documentation provided to P1 parents, and the school website will be reviewed to reflect this and ensure it highlights the need for gym clothing as this can in some instance take place more than 1 day per week.

7. School disco

A parent communicated concerns around the recent Easter school disco being undermanned and older children misbehaving. This was not communicated at the Disco to members of the PTA but was after the disco. The school updated this is out with school hours and the responsibility lies with the PTA. The PTA events are supported by SLT and any concerns about behaviour should be raised with PTA and/or the Senior Leadership Team at the event so it can be addressed.

8. P1 Induction Day

Parent Council members are invited along to the P1 induction day to promote attendance at the Parent Council meeting.

9. Parent Council Meeting scribe

The current person allocated to this role will no longer be able to attend the meeting consistently moving forward. Another person is required to fill this role.

Next Parent Council meeting 28th May (Wednesday)