

Balmuldy Primary School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 9 Sept 2025

Next Meeting: November 11, 2025

Attendance: Sean Kelly (Co-Chair), Marieanne Macleod (Co-chair) Stephanie Fowler (Vice Chair) Heather Glass, Edel Kenealy, Oliver Henrich, Susan Anderson, Mrs Grogan, Mrs Jarman, Mrs Roberson, Cllr Low, Cllr Williamson

1. Head Teacher's Report (Mrs. Grogan)

- **Staffing Update:**

Mrs. Robertson has joined the school as Deputy Headteacher and is settling into her role well.

Current pupil roll stands at 344, the roll usually fluctuates slightly throughout the year. Staffing is stable. P5 will experience a change due to maternity leave; P6 recruitment for a permanent position is underway.

- **Curriculum & Funding:**

All classes continue to receive 2.5 hours of non-class contact time each week. The focus this year is ICT and PE

Details of the PEF spend can be found in the School Improvement Plan. The focus is to support attainment and narrow any identified gaps for learners.

- **School Improvement Priorities:**

Focus areas include:

- Enhancing teaching and learning.
- Implementing data-driven targeted interventions.
- Promoting wellbeing and equity via the CIRCLE framework.

The School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report will be published on the school website.

- **Communication:**

Monthly newsletters will continue due to positive parental feedback.

A comprehensive calendar of known events has been shared with parents and will be updated throughout the year.

- **Play & Leadership:**

Pupils are adapting well to new play arrangements due to the school rebuild. Staff have volunteered their parking spaces to extend play areas. New toys have been provided by the PTA.

Mr. Boyle is currently running a lunchtime house football tournament.

Pupil Leadership Groups established include: Pupil Council, Rights Respecting Group, Digital Leaders, Reading Committee, ECO Group, and PEBL Group. Many of the staff are leading these and we are very grateful for their support.

2. New School Build

- **Timeline & Transition:**
The new building is expected to be completed by April 27, with pupils moving in after the Easter holidays. Demolition of the old school and grounds work will follow.
- **Pathway Improvements:**
Concerns raised about the existing pupil entry path are being addressed. Work to level and widen the path and install passing bays is scheduled for the September weekend.
- **Engagement & Legacy:**
Hoarding and a child-friendly viewing gallery are in place to promote learning about construction. Morgan Sindall's Engagement Officer will explore integrating elements of the old school into the new building's legacy.
A sodcutting ceremony including school pupils and staff and press release are planned for next week.

3. PVG Requirements

- **Clarification:**
Vicki Mackenzie, Parent Engagement Officer at EDC, confirmed that Parent Council members are **not required** to hold PVG certificates as their roles are non-regulated.
- **PTA Structure:**
It was recommended by the parent engagement officer that the PTA operate as a subgroup of the Parent Council to reduce Connect membership costs.
The PTA core team and approx. 50 parent volunteers currently hold PVG certification via Volunteer Scotland.
EDC's legal team is clarifying PVG requirements for parent volunteers in school and for school trips.

4. Seesaw Communication

- A parent inquired about posting frequency. Mrs. Grogan confirmed that teachers are expected to use Seesaw to 'regularly' share children's work and homework.
- Seesaw is not to be used for two-way communication due to staff time constraints.
- Staff will review a potential minimum number of posts per term.
- There is consideration for training pupils to upload their own work.
- Current Wi-Fi and hardware limitations are impacting Seesaw use.

5. Parent Council Constitution

- The Parent Council currently has two governance documents: the Constitution and Parent Council Guidelines.
- Plans are in place to merge these into a single streamlined constitution.

- Mrs. Grogan has provided examples from other local schools and will work with the Chair to progress the update.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

- **SQA Results:**
Councillor Williamson noted strong SQA results across East Dunbartonshire, attributing success to strong primary education foundations.
- **P7 Leavers' Hoodies:**
It was agreed hoodies should be issued earlier in the school year to maximize use.
A discussion was held on limiting the number of available colours to maintain identity and potentially issuing them at the beginning of P7 in future to maximize use further.
The PTA is coordinating hoodie orders.
- **Active Schools:**
Mrs. McBride and Lindsey Jackson have met to discuss plans for the year.
P3 pupils will be participating in lunchtime "Mini Fit" sessions.
Active Schools can provide training and PVG certification for interested parents/carers if there was interest in other groups forming.
- **Parent Council Membership:**
There is currently no full class representation on the Parent Council.
A list of existing representatives will be published to encourage greater parental involvement.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025