

Balmuildy Primary School – Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 11 November 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 Williamson

1. Head Teacher's Report (Mrs Grogan)

Staffing – The school is currently recruiting for a 25-hour Classroom Assistant post and a 5-hour SLA maternity-cover post. Ms Capanni was successful at gaining a permanent post with EDC and will continue as the P6 teacher for this session. . Mrs MacArthur (Nee Ms Cameron) has returned from maternity leave on a part-time basis working Monday, Tuesday and Friday in P5B. Mrs Murray will continue in P5B Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs McArthur will return to fulltime before the end of the session.

New School Build – Construction is at the concrete-pouring stage. We are gathering weekly photos to document progress. Morgan Sindall's engagement officer met with Mrs Grogan to discuss plans for an intergenerational school and community project as part of the build's legacy. An outline of the plans are below:

- **Pupil Council** – will be the project journalists and would provide a link for each year group with the construction of the new school. They will have regular site visits and provide different members of the construction team to be interviewed ranging from trainees to experienced people within professional roles, traditional trade roles, green roles and digital roles which would also showcase the varying careers that the construction industry offers along with the focus on construction progress.
- **Reading Group** – We will send you over some copies of our commissioned children's book by Jenny Bailey at Tales of Mother Earth who wrote our book 'Sitka Spruce – The amazing timber tree'. There are other books within the series including Phoebe the Bee and Stanley the Watervole that could also interest the Eco Group.
- **Digital Group** – Will link into the project journalist work to capture progress of the new school build. Our team can showcase the digital tools that we utilise on site and show them the 3D models that the school has been designed in.
- **Eco Group** – We have a number of industry experts who can support biodiversity, carbon reduction, energy reduction, waste reduction, and carbon literacy work. The Phoebe the Bee, bee bomb activity could link into the community environmental project to create areas of wildflower meadow within the park or local green space.
- **Rights & Respect** - This group could work with the Greenspace officer and parents to support the redevelopment of the local play park or green spaces.
- **PEBL** –. This group could link into the research aspect of the construction careers intergenerational project, or the pupils may have a new idea which we can work together to develop.

Safeguarding Policy – This has been shared with staff and parents and will now be added to our website

Rights Respecting School – Balmuldy is currently working towards its Silver Award and will collaborate with the local community as part of the process. Stephanie Fowler will represent the parent body on the Rights Respecting committee and support the school in working towards this award.

Seesaw – Staff will upload nine posts per term (3 literacy, 3 numeracy, 3 other experiences or examples of work). Pupils have also been encouraged to upload their own work to share with their families.

Reading School Award – The school has achieved the Silver Reading School Award and has been selected by the Scottish book trust to host Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the Children's Laureate in November. We are all very excited about this opportunity as he is only visiting in one school in Scotland.

2. School Grounds Issues

Parents raised concerns about pupil safety when crossing at the end of the day, as some children are crossing between buses and the lollipop warden is positioned at the old entrance. Placement of the crossing patrol is managed by Facilities Management; Mrs Grogan will discuss this with them.

Please see update from FM Lead

I would not be able to move the SXP away from their current post due to the lack of visibility with both buses sitting on either side of the driveway opening. To ensure the safety of the SXP and the children there must be a clear line of vision in both directions of the traffic flow for the SXP to carry out their duties safely.

Concerns were also raised regarding parent parking at drop-off and collection times, especially in poor weather. There have been reported near-misses with children. Mrs Robertson has contacted the Community Warden, who will help monitor the situation. Mrs Grogan has also included a section in the latest newsletter.

The pedestrian path into the school was discussed. It will not be widened further; only the existing passing bays will remain. The driveway cannot be used by parents/carers, as the school has permission to walk bus pupils along it only when supervised by two staff members. Otherwise, it is considered too high-risk.

3. Sports Day

Sports Day will go ahead next year. Possible venues include Allan Glen Rugby Club or the Leisuredrome Sports Centre. The event may be split into two sessions due to the school's busy calendar.

4. Kids' Play Areas

Vehicle access is only permitted at specific times and never when children are outdoors. Out of School Care has also banned traffic for safety reasons. Parents must not open closed gates to drive through at any time.

The PTA has provided numerous play resources—football, tennis, basketball, hula hoops, Connect 4, etc.—which are set out and tidied away at each break and lunchtime.

5. School Meals

The school benefits from having a full cooking kitchen, which many schools do not. Teachers report that kitchen staff are very accommodating and try to offer alternatives when children do not like their pre-ordered meal.

6. Star Awards

Star Awards have been updated to align with the school values. They are presented at House Assemblies every four weeks and are led by the House Captains. The awards celebrate pupils' achievements based on school values and wider accomplishments.

7. Bus Travel

Concessionary bus travel is applied for annually through the council and is allocated at the council's discretion after the September weekend. The school has no involvement in the allocation process.

8. AOB

Applications for school and nursery registration were discussed. Mrs Grogan will send a reminder to the wider parent body.

The upcoming AGM was noted, along with the need for the appointment of a new Chair and Clerk. It was also highlighted that not all classes currently have representation on the Parent Council, and increasing this remains a priority.

Next Meeting: AGM – 20 January 2026, 6:30–8:00 PM, Turnbull High School