

BRAES HGH SCHOOL
Parent Council – Minute 26.11.24

Present : K MacKinnon (Chair), M Lang, J Ormsby, M Taylor, I Livingstone, Cllr Hannah

1. Previous minute/Matters Arising

The previous minute with two amendments was agreed, proposed by K MacKinnon and seconded by M Taylor.

2. Pupil Voice Group

F Harvie (S2) and Jenny Hastings (S6) reported on their recent work with the Pupil Voice Group, highlighting :

- the recent consideration of approaches to mobile phone use in school
- the recent consultation on sports facilities in Braes High School
- the Pupil Voice Festival
- their strategic plan

Discussion focused on how to maintain pupil engagement in the PVG in the Senior Phase. Finlay and Jenny were thanked for their contribution to the Parent Council.

3. Cost of the School Day pupil group

Shafa Mohammad (S4) and Roisin Kirk (S6) presented along with E Taylor (Principal Teacher – Onwards and Upwards) on recent work with fellow pupils and staff on further reducing the cost of the school day. Among the points covered were :

- the recent engagement with cluster primaries to forge a deeper understanding of the supports available to families
- the planned liaison with pupils from other secondaries to create a network for the sharing of effective practice
- current activity in Braes including the winter pop-up shop, the prop pop-up shop and the Braes Pantry

The Parent Council agreed to donate £250.00 to support these activities within the school, which was gratefully received by the pupils and staff. Shafa, Roisin and Ms Taylor were thanked for their contribution by the Parent Council.

4. School Social Media

I Livingstone shared current thoughts around how the school presents its social media output, seeking views from Parent Council. Among the points covered were :

- a potential move to a new platform to promote engagement from parents/carers and pupils
- the merits and accessibility of other potential platforms
- the possibility of a mixture of platforms being used
- the purpose of the social media output as providing a showcase of our young people's talents, abilities and efforts

Action

- I Livingstone will feedback further on any changes at future meetings

5. Forthcoming areas of focus

I Livingstone highlighted forthcoming areas of focus for the school and the Parent Council, including the reviewed mobile phone policy, learning and teaching, self-evaluation, school improvement planning and curricular review.

6. Connect Newsletter

K MacKinnon noted the recently received newsletter from Connect, highlighting their increasingly pivotal role in supporting Parent Councils. K MacKinnon noted the forthcoming formation of a Parent Panel, working with Scottish Government in order to gather parent views of a variety of topics. This will mostly be done by survey and subsequent analysis.

7. Bank account changes

K MacKinnon outlined the recent communication from Bank of Scotland, intimating a range of new charges for use of the account. K MacKinnon highlighted the impact this would have when considering the Falkirk Council investment in all Falkirk Parent Councils.

Action

- K MacKinnon will submit a complaint to Bank of Scotland.
- M Taylor will consider other banking options

8. Scottish Government Guidance of school uniform

K MacKinnon noted the recently published Scottish Government Guidance on school uniform. The ensuing discussion noted the following :

- the guidance outlines sensible approaches regarding recycling of uniform, what uniform should consist of and how young people should be supported in this regard.
- How Braes approach the promotion of school uniform
- The crucial role of Friends at Braes
- The recent Falkirk Council debate and the impressive contributions of Braes pupils

9. AOCB

Cllr Hannah noted the upcoming debate on the proposal to change the learning week.

K MacKinnon wished all a happy festive period and advised the next meeting would be on Wednesday 22nd January.