

Braes High School Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 1 May 2024

In Attendance

Iain Livingstone (Headteacher), Kenneth MacKinnon(Chair), Amanda Anderson(vice chair), Kirsty Baird, Morag Lang, Ian Vosser(staff), Jillian Shaw(staff), Anne Hannah, Craig Peter, Jackie Ormsby, Matt Taylor(Treasurer), Shafa Mohammed(pupil), Finlay Harvie(pupil), Alice Ohlstenius(pupil), Samantha Wilson-McCaw(staff), Leah Leitch, Dawn Thomson, Dana Fraser,

Apologies

No Apologies

Previous minutes and actions

Action to remove online wizard completed.

Action to speak with PE department regarding communication completed.

Action to circulate paperwork in relation to school improvement plan completed.

New action - Work ongoing to look at how to best optimise the parent online booking system (predominantly S1 and S2).

Minutes proposed by Kenneth McKinnon and seconded by Matt Taylor.

Updates from the school

There has been further engagement with Rhona Jay, Interim Head of Education regarding community use of the school. They are looking at the afterschool use, weekend use and in the future, during the day usage. Updates will continue.

Pupil Voice Group

A pupil voice festival is currently being organised, this coincides with reformation of the pupil council. The motto is "our voice matters". The parent council have donated £500 for the event and the school will match this amount.

The event will take place on 17 May 2024 during periods 5 and 6 and will be for S1-S3. The council is also working on key areas during the transition and going out to cluster schools.

There will be sporting activities, inflatables, snacks and drinks, carnival games, information stations, extracurricular information. The event is to have a school fayre type feel and to interact with pupils, getting feedback from them regarding learning, teaching and home learning. Pupils will be encouraged to contribute feedback and

then participate in fun activities. Feedback regarding the event will be given at the next meeting.

Learning for sustainability

An update was provided with the activities being worked on:

Litter prevention strategy;
Green Flag Award;
Curriculum Development with future Level 6 courses available;
Active citizens;
Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award;
Outdoor Learning Spaces;
Authority peer mentoring;
Falkirk Climate Conference

There is a new polytunnel, outdoor teaching area, benches, an outdoor covered area, indoor teaching hut and new paths interconnecting the areas.

There is a target that by 2030 work will be ongoing with all secondary schools to build in sustainability to the school day. The school is working towards Carbon Neutral internal standards and carbon neutral by considering all aspects of the school such as fuel, delivery vehicles, electricity, water supply, water treatment, transmission and distribution, waste disposal and commuting.

In addition to this looking at what is happening across the uk and overseas.

The Falkirk Climate Conference is currently being arranged. It is a pupil led mini COP summit with schools across Falkirk participating. There will be political representation, workshops on carbon literacy, sustainable fashion, land art to name but a few and local business and organisations lending their support.

At the conference a “Falkirk Agreement” will be signed encompassing the goals of the schools in Falkirk with a view to extending this across Scotland and internationally.

It is looking to be on 19 June with 10/12 representatives from each of the high schools, led by Braes and Falkirk High Schools.

“Falkirk COP 24” will allow pupils to meet directly with stakeholders, bring ideas together and move into policies in the future. They will look to develop and action plan and this proactive, pupil centred approach will leave a legacy for the future. It will provide leadership skills for the pupils and improve links across all the faculties and celebrate the positive work of all the eco committees across Falkirk.

Follow on Instagram @falkirk_Climate_Conference

School Improvement Plan

A power point presentation was given regarding the self-evaluation carried out at Braes, using quantitative data, stakeholders' views, and direct observations. This covered the two areas highlighted in the recent HMICS inspection, 2.3 Learning and Teaching and 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement.

The surveys have provided key messages from learners, and these will be taken forwards with a group of self-evaluation leaders. There was an interview played with Self evaluation leaders Ross McKay and Ruby Grant who highlighted the results.

There was also a power point presentation regarding the staff survey.

The parent council carried out groupwork in relation to several topics including:

Wellbeing, Equality and inclusion;

Further improving our learning provision;

Further enhancing our leadership and approach to improvement

Parent Council Matters

The proposed change to the school week by Falkirk Council was discussed. There was a special council meeting recently and the motion did not carry.

All Headteachers have just been given notification of this and still have to brief their staff in the first instance. Next week the parent council chairs will be provided with information and then on 15 May there will be an open meeting for all parents/carers. The same information will be cascaded across all Falkirk schools at this time.

A consultation period will then be opened and parent councils, or indeed any individuals or organisations can give direct views on the proposal.

There was discussion about a google form for parent feedback and a collective parent council response being submitted. This will be discussed further at the next meeting on 3 June 2024.

Deputy Head Appointment

Interviews will be held on 27 May 2024. Members of the parent council will assist with the long leet and short leet sifts.

AOB

The vice chair Amanda Anderson will stand down this year. Any other person wishing to take this role on should discuss with the chair.

The treasurer updated the group that the accounts have been passed.

Change in the school week

A council wide consultation is currently ongoing in respect to the change in the school week. Presentation and FAQS are being prepared to inform all stakeholders. The schools would have to consider what would require to be relinquished and what could be retained, staffing levels, amount of time in class and number of periods, break and lunchtimes.

This is all in the early stages the school will update the group when further information is received from the council.

AOCB

It was raised that early communication where possible on teams or other platforms could be given in respect to sports events. While last minute changes are understandable, it was asked that changes to any extracurricular clubs or competitions can be circulated in advance to allow for young persons or parents to prepare clothing or changes in transport for that day and which staff are best to contact and the best way to contact them.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 3 June, 7-9pm in school library