

Braes High School Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 13 March 2025

In Attendance

Iain Livingstone (Headteacher), Kenneth MacKinnon (Chair), Kirsty Baird, Jackie Ormsby, Jo Snedden, Morag Lang, Councillor A Hannah, Jim McGovern (RWCC), Ian Shotliff (RWCC), Staff – Jillian Shaw

Apologies

None

Previous minutes and actions

Minutes from previous meeting proposed by Kenneth MacKinnon and seconded by Jackie Ormsby.

Updates

Move to Blue Sky. Information has gone out in parent communication

Anti Bullying policy completed

Update for Sports Council

Braes applied for the Gold Award and have been awarded this. This is an active school award and is the highest award from Sport Scotland.

The sports council improve PE around the school and moving towards picking classes, creating own pathways and making PE more personalised. This engages more your people and make it more enjoyable.

This has created many new activities eg Hyrox, netball and cricket. An airtrack has been funded for gymnastics and the school recently fielded a boys and girls cricket team in competition.

New departmental events, PE curricular evening, sports awards, disability sport week, dance showcase, wheelchair basketball and boccia, introduction of sports leaders and young people of the youth panel for disability sport.

The development of PE in Braes has engagement, enjoyment and achievement at the forefront.

There are one third of young people engaging in extracurricular sports

There is an action plan for the next 2 years and Braes will reapply for the Gold Award again in 2027.

The Sports Council is currently planning and preparing sports awards and sports day with activities having a pupil led approach.

Pupil leaders are in place and working with multiple cluster primaries and there are competitions and working towards achieving qualifications and upskilling of sports leaders. There are further changes with sports captains, young ambassadors and council meetings.

The achievement of the gold award with feature in the Falkirk Herald.

Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council Local Plan

Jim McGovern and Ian Shotcliff attended to inform the council of the Local Place Plan. There is a 5-year plan for residential and commercial properties and local community councils have a say in what they think should happen. Community councils put together local plan. RWCC are currently doing one just now and it will be submitted in April/May. The plan is evidence based on what people desire, what infrastructure is in place and what public transport is available, with the aim to be making the area a pleasant place to live or a desirable place for people to move to.

There is a questionnaire which assists to canvas people's views. It is an onerous and difficult task and not all CC submit a plan.

Matters already being discussed are suitable areas for more homes, overdevelopment in the area, pressure on healthcare, playparks, pressure on schools, general improvement in community, local travel initiatives, bus routes, paths, speeding, small business units, more usage or change of use of existing buildings, different types of housing,

The CC are asking for assistance from school community. The questionnaire will go to S4/5/6 and parents to contribute.

A link will be circulated.

Mobile phone policy update

Policy and communications have been sent out.

The new way of engagement with mobile phones will start after the Easter holidays.

S1/2 will have dedicated safe boxes in classes. This will be optional for senior pupils.

There will be posters in school and hopefully will produce a positive impact.

If there are medical necessities, then usage will still be allowed.

School Improvement Plan

Jillian Shaw provided an overview in relation to learning and teaching (differentiation and feedback), curriculum (new S3 model and senior core), attainment and achievement (BGE benchmarking), leadership (staff leadership and pupil leadership) and wellbeing (relationships and equalities).

Continued self-evaluation using quantitative data, feedback and direct observations. Staff engaging in CPD events.

Will be continuing to improve the standing items eg cost of the school day and positive destinations etc

Engaging in new items eg supported learning for BGE, feedback and more engagement with families.

Maximising the S3 depth of learning and readiness and focussing on developing the curriculum on offer for senior phase learners.

Further improvement in attainment of learners with ASN, pushing attainment for the most able and further developing the wider achievement awards, with 633 already attaining awards.

Learner in BGE being fully challenged with a depth of learning.

Enhanced leadership opportunities to grow and a middle leadership program to be launched.

Further refinement of the LBGTQ strategy

Ongoing staff wellbeing support and ongoing focus on relationships.

New arrangements

Senior awards will be Wed 23 April

S6 last day Thur 24 April

Maddiston P7

P7 adapting well to change. They are accessing library, games and astro and will start to get enhanced transition work in the summer term.

Budget proposals

The council tax raise was discussed. Councillor Hannah explained the rationale. The council tax is high, however the compromise is the aspects of education such as home to school transport, buses, educational hours were not cut. The council is still in trouble but with the rise the education cuts will be minimised.

There is to be an investment in road and roads safety and flood protection and improvements in school estates,

AOCB

The parent council agreed to pay for 2 dux medals.

Connect email to be sent out by the chair

The global moral issues fair will be on 20 March and asked if member of the parent council could attend

Study leave begins on 25 April

There is a review of ASN provision. This will continue to be monitored, and updates provided.

There was a discussion around upkeep and availability of toilets within the school. Headteacher will review this and provide an update.

Proposed dates for future meetings

Tuesday 6 May

Monday 2 June