

Braes High School Parent Council

Wednesday 2nd November 2022, 7pm

Present

Kirsty Baird, Amanda Anderson, Davey Surphlis, Kenneth MacKinnon, Councillor James Kerr, Councillor Anne Hannah, Morag Lang, Jackie Ormsby, Leah Leitch, Claire Lawson

Introductions and apologies

Wendy McPherson, Donna Ainslie, Jim Robertson, Councillor Forest, Siobhan Paterson, Fiona Robertson, Craig Duncan

Previous minutes & matters arising

Last ordinary meeting minutes approved (31st May 2022) Proposed Amanda Anderson and seconded by Kenneth MacKinnon

AGM for noting/feedback (5th September 2022)

Actions arising – School Improvement Plan circulated and on school website, parents evenings added to the school calendar, constitution redrafted and will be taken to next meeting for approval, money provided and contributed to the school funds.

School Captains - their leadership journey and plans for the session

1. Strengthen the school community
2. Enhance the curriculum
3. Revive Braes spirit

Looking to reintroduce house events and events within the school. They are looking to increase the role of the house captains, create house spirit and competitiveness, getting people involved. Looking at more charity events and fun events.

S3 prep packs and graduation packs to provide advice and prepare them for change.

The legacy project will be Interdisciplinary learning, different subjects getting together and working towards common goals. Looking to target mainly S3 pupils to find out what they are most passionate about and then inform and educate to combat some of the issues raised. Work will begin in the New Year to engage with different departments.

This will be achieved by engagement from school captains, self-evaluation from leadership team and the parent council. Senior flexible pathways already shaped and underway and this will progress to shape the future of younger pupils. Senior pupils able to communicate between the year groups and provide help and advice to younger pupils. The goal is to keep people involved and engaged in school and make it somewhere they want to be and enjoy.

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Councillor Kerr and Hannah complimented the school on the excellent new modules and experiences available and also the excellent work with S3 to shape their future.

Looking to build on the successful Halloween pop up shop to assist the cost of living crisis and charity day which included a bake sale and dance off. Approx. £900 raised. Looking to hold an S5/6 Christmas ceilidh, a decorate your uniform day and prom 2023.

Updates from the school

Jillian Shaw/David Ironside - Overview of National Qualifications and Assessment review and School Improvement Plan/Curriculum Rationale

Kenneth MacKinnon - parental engagement in National Qualifications and Assessment review

Literacy and Numeracy

Positive Destinations for Braes pupils

Looking at curriculum developments and review of the curriculum rationale, explained the policy and publications out, explained emerging themes and described how to get involved.

The OECD report - organisation economic curriculum development report recommends a full curriculum reform, looking for stakeholder participation, looking to harmonise the broader general curriculum and senior phase.

The Stobart report - providing a better understanding of assessment and alternative approaches to assessment and whole school assessment, looking at learning time and a move away from high stake assessments, greater vocational skills, skills development and greater harmony.

The Ken Muir report – deals with new assessment body and qualifications in Scotland. Deals with a range of qualifications and not just Nat 5 and Highers.

Discussed 2 consultations

The first being the National Discussion running from Sept – Dec 2022 which aims to build a compelling vision for the future. Looking for parent council to put in a response and for this to be circulated to the wider school community.

The second being qualifications reform consultation which closes in December 2022. Looking for parent council to put in a response and for this to be circulated to the wider school community.

Next discussed School Improvement Plan and the Curriculum Rationale. BGE S1-3 and senior phase S4-6 with exam based curriculum. The time is right to look at the curriculum as a whole and discuss what we can add to provide pupils with a strong grounding for the future. Looking at what learning and teaching can be amended and how we can prepare pupils in BGE for the senior phase. Looking at getting back to more active learning and group working. Looking at assessment as an ongoing process and holistic approach. Looking to keep tracking and monitoring robust and will be going out to consultation.

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Although the Braes Curriculum rationale meets the recommendations of the publications looking to send out a survey to gather views on skills, knowledge, experience, pathways. Ideally looking for a blend of continuous assessment, teacher judgement and exam testing.

Hayward Review – January 2023???

Actions

Links to be sent out regarding the consultations – Kenny

Letter to be sent out regarding the consultations – Mr Livingstone

At next meeting on 1 December we will consolidate a Parent Council response. Can all PC members have responses in by 23 November - All Members?

Looking for as many people across the parent body to provide responses. Need to get the information out to the parent body.

Numeracy and Literacy and positive destinations

Data for school leavers last year compared to 2019, 2020 and 2021 were compared. Figures for ASN and SIMD (multiple deprivation) quintile 1 and 2 were compared. Overall Braes are outperforming national expectations and are performing higher than local, regional and national averages. We still however wish to bridge the gap between SIMD quintile 1 and 5.

98% of Braes pupils end up in a positive destination, however Braes looking to keep in touch with those who have not achieved in this manner and continue to support them with help on where to take their pathway next.

Employment Training Unit maintain links with the school to assist

Action – figures to be circulated – Mr Livingstone

Parent Council update

Cost of living resources available from Falkirk Council

Relaunch of take the right route campaign

Family Learning BGE Event - Parent Council Stall. Chair asked for volunteers to assist from 5-8 pm on 14 November 2022

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AOB

Local councillor reiterated they are available for comments, complaints or assistance.

Councillors touched on the National Education and Children and Young People Executive and reiterated that parents can get involved. It is looking at the Education Service Recovery Improvement Plan encouraged engagement???

Chair raised that there is due to be a Falkirk Area Parent Council Forum and urged others interested to become involved.

ASN forum in the area and again urged others interested to become involved.

Parents asked about S2/3 parents being offered tour of the school as they missed out on this due to covid. Mr Livingstone reiterated the event BGE event on 14 November can address this.

Parents asked that the use of teams is consistent across the faculties. Mr Livingstone will address this.

Date of next meetings:

Thu 1 December- Library

Wed 25 Jan- TEAMS

Mon 6 March- TEAMS

Tue 9 May- BHS

Mon 5 June- BHS

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