



Boroughmuir High School Parent Council

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 22nd May 2019

Attended by:

Jacqueline Whymark (JW) (Chair)
 Ellen Langdon (EL) (Minutes)
 David Dempster (DD) (Head Teacher)
 Liz Roebuck
 Deborah Kennedy
 Ross Annan
 Will Howell
 Emma Cunningham
 Dawn MacNeil
 David Dempster
 Scott Davis
 Sarah Moran
 Miriam Jackson
 Avril Mahon Roberts
 Kate Morris
 Nasira Bradley
 Margaret Ries
 Peter Kingsbury
 Helen Coyle

Apologies:

Marion, Kay
 Gareth Clegg
 Alison
 Marco

Topic	Action
<p>1. <u>Input from guest CL/External Interested Party</u> Presentation by Ross Thomson 'Why Art and Design (CDT) is important'. An overview of the department was given. Key unique points are: It is the only school course that has engineering as part of the curriculum and the curriculum is updated every year to keep in line with changing IT market needs. Key areas of learning were outlined – engineering, graphic comms, woodwork, design & manufacturing. S2 marketplace events allow pupils to experience these subjects. Examples of pupils' work were shown, and it was highlighted that this work is displayed around the school at key events. The advanced higher course graduates all go on to college courses. Links with Edinburgh College are in place.</p> <p>2. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u> _A new secretary Ellen Langdon was welcomed to the committee. Deep felt thanks and best wishes were given to Jacqueline Whymark, Peter Kingsbury, Helen Coyle, Ross Annan who will all be stepping down from the committee after collectively 20 years of service.</p> <p>3. <u>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from January 2019</u> <u>Matters Arising From The Minutes</u> Changes – correct the spelling of names David Dempster and Peter Kingsby and the date for the next ENGAGE event which is the 11 June.</p>	

4. Chairs reflections -

- a. As a voluntary body, JW is very proud of the achievements that the committee have made in her time as chair. Some mentioned were:
 - i. Galvanising parents to support parent council initiatives, for example encouraging parents to offer work experience to pupils. Many got involved and there is the potential for this to grow in the future. The committee view is that the best outcomes for children are when parents and teachers work together.
 - ii. Area building plans. Milestone successes include; Boroughmuir Parent Council successfully objected to Napier University Union's building project which would have overlooked the school, and the Boatels- five canal boats, which would have been located on the canal in front of the school, was stopped.
 - iii. New events pioneered were 'The Final Artwork' and 'Pop Up Party'. The format of existing events was changed to become more appealing to attendees, for example by including jazz music at AGMs.
- b. The point was made that the Head Teacher can't always challenge council initiatives that the school would disagree with, but the Parent Council can and politically has a very powerful voice.
- c. Gareth Clegg was thanked by JW as "a real asset" as vice chair.
- d. Kate Morris, the new parent council chair, was introduced and welcomed. As the former chair of South Morningside Primary, Kate believes that parental support of children through the parent council is very important.

5. Head Teachers Report

DD summarised that many subjects, including Modern Languages have flourished because the school has challenged restricted curriculum models and instead allowed pupils to follow 8 subjects over 2 years allowing extended teaching on subjects and more time to prepare for exams.

The s1 intake reached a ceiling of 240 but now it has been increased to 260. There were seven successful appeals to get into s1 from pupils out-with the catchment area. The pupil roll will be 1304 in August.

Rising school roles require more teachers – not always full-time teachers- and part time teachers can be difficult to source.

DD suggested that increasing roll numbers is a key issue that the parent council could have a role in assisting with and is a whole Edinburgh issue, not just at Boroughmuir.

DD also suggested meeting chairs of other parent councils to discuss collectively how to address these issues. Boroughmuir already has links with James Gillespie and St Thomas's. It was agreed that this is an urgent issue that needs immediate action.

6. Update from New School subgroup Peter Kingsbury (Scott Davis will update at the next meeting).

The Boatels application was rejected largely to do with Boroughmuir's objections. Gary Corbett was a big support to the subcommittee and since he had an understanding of how the system worked, he was able to successfully advise the parent body.

7. Social and Fundraising presented by Nasira Bradley

A wine tasting event is planned and will take place on the 31 May at 5.30pm. More tickets are available with a potential income of £1600.

Funding bids are invited where any parent can apply to the parent council for funding for a project or initiative or class that would benefit children in addition to the existing curriculum. Please contact the parent council for more information.

8. Other subgroup updates and dates

The sub-group ENGAGE that offers career development events to pupils from S2 and upwards will host its next event on the 11 June. A professor of nano-electronics is speaking.

Recognition and thanks to Margaret Ries who negotiated an excellent rate with the Braid Hills Hotel as the venue where the event will take place. This has kept costs of the event low.

Curriculum subgroup

Kate Douglas will take over from Helen Coyle.

9. Treasurers report

Dawn MacNeil gave a summary of the parent council's finances. £1200 is the budget for the Parent Council including £400 allocated to the ENGAGE events. This is now less because costs went down. A surplus of £1500 will be available at the start of the next academic year. A full summary of accounts will be given at the next AGM meeting in September.

Communications

Will Howell gave a summary. Email addresses will be set up for each subgroup to make contact with the parent council easier. The Boroughmuir parent council Facebook page has 350 members.

JW thanked everyone and closed the meeting. DD thanked JW for her service as chair of the parent council and presented her with flowers from Boroughmuir High School. The parent body thanked JW, PK, HC, RA and presented each with a box of chocolates.

Dates of next academic years' meetings in 2019 at 6.30pm in the dual teaching space (based on last year's regularity and keeping to a Wed):

GM 11 September

6 November

22 January

18 March

22 April

20 May 2019 at 6.30pm.