

Minutes of Bo'ness Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 at 7 p.m.

Bo'ness Academy Conference Room

Those in attendance:

Parent Members:

Mrs. H. Cullen (Chairperson)

Mrs. J. Neill

Mr. R. Forbes

Mrs .L. Chuchla (Treasurer)

Mrs. K. Sives

Staff Members:

Mr. D. Mitchell (Headteacher)

Mrs. J. McIntyre

Mr. K. Rae

Minute Secretary

Mrs. Irene Jeffreys

- 1, Mrs. Cullen welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Mrs. G. Blair, Mrs. A. Ritchie, Mrs. S. Forbes and Mrs. R. Provan.
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters arising from the last Minutes:

One problem was Parents' parking in the bus bays. Mr. A. Wylie was contacted regarding this matter on two or three occasions but did not reply. Diane Cherry was contacted and said the situation was not acceptable. The matter is still ongoing.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Chuchla gave the up to date report on the balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The payment for 2010 has been received from Falkirk Council amounting to £715 and this, together with the balance brought forward from 2009 gives a total of £1,030.60p. Mrs. Chuchla has been trying for some time to have Mrs. Cullen's name as a signatory on cheques but, to date, has not had much luck with the Royal Bank of Scotland. However she is hopeful that this situation will be rectified in the near future. The Parent Council has approved the terms of the Royal Bank of Scotland and agreed to complete the application form which was Signed by Mrs. Cullen on behalf of the Council. Mrs. Chuchla will deliver this form.

Mrs. Sives asked what the money received from Falkirk Council would be spent on. Mr. Mitchell stated the money was used for various purposes, i.e. payment to the Minute Secretary, also a banner will be purchased for the Parent Council which can be put on show at various school events i.e. Parents' Nights etc. Mrs. Chuchla will check with Falkirk Council regarding the disbursement of money for various items.

#### 5) Head teacher's Report

Mr. Mitchell gave a detailed and in-depth discussion on Curriculum for Excellence, detailing all the aspects on the various changes that will be taking effect. It was a very worthwhile and interesting talk and helped the Parent Council to understand what would be happening in future education.

#### Budgets and Staffing 2010/11

Falkirk Council has agreed that the amount per capita will be cut. The percentage of this cut is not known at present but it will be cut. Staff development money will also be cut. The total budget allocated to the school will be reduced as the school roll has fallen.

Mrs. Sives asked what was happening re the Whitecross pupils. Mr. Mitchell stated the parents would prefer their children to go on to Graeme High School, as there is no direct communication between Bo'ness and Whitecross i.e. transport and after

school activities.

### Curriculum for Excellence

An extra in-Service day is being granted this year. This will be taken on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### Comenius Project

This involves a partnership between European countries with schools from Southern Italy, Spain and the Czech Republic. A number of staff and pupils will be going to Italy in June 2010 for the concluding meeting of this first project.

Our next project is at the planning stage but it is hoped that we will link with Schools from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Turkey, Slovakia and Greece.

The theme will be the Olympics and it is hoped that we may stage a Mini Olympics next session. There will be visits by staff and pupils to our partner schools if we get the approval of the British Council.

These trips would be largely funded by the British Council with little additional costs to parents.

Michael Connarty MP has offered his support with our application to the British Council.

## 6. Correspondence reaching parents

Mrs. Cullen has received a fair amount of correspondence which she would like to see circulated to the parents. Mrs Cullen said she would contact Hazel Graham regarding this being put on the school website.

There is a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March re Education Service Budget. Mrs. Cullen will be attending.

Some of the correspondence received will be displayed at the S2 Parents Evening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

7. Mrs. Sives asked if it would be possible for parents to have access to any information which would help them to understand and help their children when they were preparing for Standard Grades and Highers. Mrs. Cullen suggested that the Parent Council should consider this point and it would be discussed further at the next meeting.
  
8. There was no other business.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at 7 p.m.