

# BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting

Wed 26 March 2025 at 6.30pm

School Library



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## PRESENT:

Parent Members: Heather Knox, Josephine Docherty (Secretary), Jonathan Hagen, Karen Donn, Lesley Strain, Lorna Russell & Susan Bell (Chairperson)

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Ian Watson (Principal Teacher Guidance), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher Modern Studies and History), & Valerie Gibson (Depute Head Teacher)

Pupil Members: Mabel J (School Captain) & Julia C-B (Vice Captain)

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### a) Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and intimated apologies on behalf of Aynsley Lawrence, David Bulloch, David Codling, Emma Brown, Lucinda Ferguson-Hunter, Lyssa McCartney, Rosemary Logie & Vicky Pang.

### b) Minutes of Last Meeting (26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was approved by Lorna Russell and seconded by Graeme McLean, as a true record of that meeting.

### c) Matters Arising

- a) Pupil survey – carry forward; do on summer term. **ACTION: Emma Brown**
- b) Gambling licence – See update under Treasurer’s Report. **ACTION: David Bulloch**
- c) Pop-up charity fundraising event – see update under item 8 - BFF update. **Action Closed**
- d) Bank account change – See update under Treasurer’s Report. **ACTION: David Bulloch**

### d) School Captain’s Update (Olivia F & Julia C-B)

- a) **Comic Relief** – approximately £500 raised from fundraising events, including pupils v teachers football game (which the pupils won!), bake sale, face painting, dress-down day.
- b) **S6 Spirit Week 31 Mar – 4 Apr** – pupils have a range of fund-raising ideas for the week-long event, including:
  - Mon – ‘Anything, but a bag...’
  - Tue – White Lies T-shirts
  - Wed – Wear Pink
  - Thu – Movie Characters
  - Fri – Minions (with Mr Boyd participating as Gru)
- c) **Secret Singer Event** – pre-Easter, there will be a Secret Singer competition organised, similar to The Masked Singer on TV, with staff members (behind a curtain) entertaining the audience and pupils voting on who they suspect the singer to be. There will be duets as well as solo performances. Funds raised will go towards the senior pupil’s prom fund.

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- d) **S1 Points System** – Belmont Academy has reintroduced the house points system and S6 pupils have been involved with the S1 pupils to support the pilot of a point scoring system for each school house – this will be rolled out across the whole school after the school holidays. Bute are currently in the lead with the most points (Ms Gibson gave a presentation to PC Members explaining the current points system – see item 7 below).

Parent Council Members recognised the sterling efforts input by the senior pupils during this school year and recognised their commitment to their examination studies next month, understanding this would be their last meeting. Everyone wished them well for the future and commended their fundraising efforts as well as their engagement with the junior school.

## e) Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, David Bulloch, was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following update via email:

### Bank Balance

#### As at 26 Feb Meeting

Opening	= £1,503.71
In	= £5.89 (from Square)
Out	= Nil
Closing	= £1,509.60

#### As at 26 Mar Meeting

Opening	= £1,509.60
In	= £220.06 (from Square)
Out	= £4.25 (new bank charges)
Closing	= £1,725.41

**Other Monies** – Susan has other monies yet to be banked (school concert, pop-up shop, parents evening events), arrangements will be made with her directly to obtain this, so it may be banked ASAP.

**Co-Op Bank account** – Unfortunately during the application process the bank requested our charity reference, but since the Parent Council is not a charity, the application could not proceed. Virgin Money do a free Clubs & Societies Current Account which suits our purposes. A copy of the council's constitution needs to accompany the application – David asked if this could be forwarded. **Action: Josephine Docherty**

**Gambling Licence** – Application submitted, awaiting response – will follow up with Council. **Action: David Bulloch**

**New Treasurer** – David is due to complete his tenure as Treasurer at the end of the school year. He asked that other members consider taking on this role, to allow a handover period. (There were no volunteers at the meeting – parent members are asked to consider this in advance of the next meeting) **Action: ALL Parent Members**

## f) House Points System (Valerie Gibson)

Pre Covid-19, Belmont Academy had a school house points system in place, but this had fallen by the wayside in recent years. Ms Gibson explained that this achievement initiative had been resurrected, with a trial being run with the S1 year group until the summer holidays. After August, the whole school will once again become involved.

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Points are awarded for:

- Supporting extra-curricular clubs;
- Time-keeping (turning up to school on time and in classes at the start of lessons);
- Wearing school uniform;
- Adhering to the mobile phone policy;
- Head Teacher's Praise Award

The scheme promotes positive relationships and the data captured enables the school to improve outcomes for learners, particularly those who are not engaging positively, to allow considered interventions.

Pupils have been issued with a unique barcode, which correlates with their Scottish Candidate No. (SCN), with a number of barcode scanners installed across the school estate which allows for accurate recording.

There will be a range of prizes awarded at the annual prize-giving event, in line with the scheme for attendance and commitment.

There were 4 suggested options put forward for the name of the new points scheme and pupils and teachers will get the opportunity to vote for their preference.

Bute House are the current house leaders.

## g) Pastoral Update (Ian Watson)

a) **Financial Management** – Mr Watson had explored Barclay's Money Matters, an English system used to inform students on financial management on subjects such as tax, mortgages, loan interest, savings, pensions etc. However, he'd since discovered a pilot initiative which South Ayrshire Council are rolling out to S4 and S5 pupils, with materials covering:

- Debt management
- University debt
- Klarna (and similar schemes)
- Budgeting

The PSE Group have a meeting planned to discuss extending the roll-out across the authority.

There are also materials being developed to inform S1 – S3 pupils too. The Advice Hub will train staff members on delivery of the programme (Life after school – Finances).

b) **Attendance** – Belmont Academy continues to see an improvement with attendance figures, currently 2% above last year's figures at this stage in the school year. The only year group behind in comparison with the rest of the local authority is S5. SLT and Guidance Staff will continue to explore the reasons why this may be the case.

## h) Belmont Funding Futures Update (Susan Bell)

The charity shop fundraising event at Maybole commenced on Friday past and will run until Thursday this week (27 March). Funds raised will go towards end of term rewards trips.

**Post meeting update** - £1507 raised, with additional monies awaited from 'The Rag Man' who took away leftover clothing items (paid by weight), plus there were some items listed on Ebay for sale, where they are expected to attract higher bids than what may have been attracted at the pop-up shop. Final total to be confirmed at next meeting.

**Action: Susan Bell**

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## i) Head Teacher's Update (Kevin Boyd)

### a) Staffing

I am pleased to share that our overall staffing levels remain to be reasonably healthy, although we have some ongoing staffing challenges with the Guidance team at the moment.

Shortly after the Easter break Rose Dunlop is returning 0.6 FTE PTG (Cumbrae). As a result we have asked for expressions of interest internally and have three applicants for 0.4 PTG (Cumbrae). Interviews will take place next week. In addition, due to ongoing absences, Nina Melville will switch houses to become Acting PTG (Lomond).

The options process is now complete and Mrs Flanagan DHT has started the important task of creating the whole school timetable for next session. We have submitted bids for three NQTs and will find out how many we have been allocated in the middle of May. There is a small number of NQTs who have indicated that South Ayrshire is their first-choice local authority, however we hope that our bids will be successful.

### b) Study Support (Senior Phase)

We have provided significant funding to deliver an extensive programme of supported study sessions this term. In addition, we held two extremely successful targeted N5 and Higher Maths residentials at Dumfries House. Mr McLean has also organised our Easter School programme which can be viewed on the school website.

Mr McLean DHT oversees this programme, and he will share information in relation to study support for Senior Phase students, including our plans for the Easter School programme.

### c) Young Musician & Singer of the Year

Belmont Academy's Young Musician & Singer of the Year competition took place last night. Thanks again to the PC for supporting this wonderful event. My congratulations to all of our young musicians and to our category winners. Agatha (S3) won the BGE section and Luke (S5) won the Senior Young Musician. They will represent Belmont Academy at the South Ayrshire Music service Young Musician of the Year final on Tuesday, 1 April.

Thank you – K Boyd thanked the PC for their support with the pop-up shop and fundraising.

## d) Any Other Business

a) End of term PC Dinner – Mr McLean to check school calendar and provide some suitable dates for an end of term Parent Council dinner. Josephine to issue a poll to determine most suitable date.  
**Action: Josephine Docherty**

b) Options changes – there was a query in relation to a change of options for a pupil who had already submitted their options form. Mr Boyd suggested the pupil approach Mrs Flanagan in school this week, to determine if it may be possible to choose an alternative subject option, in advance of timetabling being completed.

## e) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025** at **6.30pm** in the **School Library (1<sup>st</sup> floor)** within Belmont Academy.