

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting
Wed 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm
Conference/e-Learning Room



PRESENT:

Parent Members: Susan Bell (Chairperson), Emma Brown (Deputy Chair), Josephine Docherty (Secretary), David Bulloch (Treasurer), Emily Hamilton, Heather Knox, Jonathan Hagen, Karen Harley, Kirsty Thomson, Lorna Russell, Lyssa McCartney, Pamela Gray.

Staff Members: Kevin Boyd (Head Teacher), Graeme McLean (Depute Head Teacher), Lynsey Pollock (Principal Teacher)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair, Susan Bell, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new school term and introductions were made for the benefit of the new Parent Members. A special mention of thanks was made to outgoing parent members, Kirsty Ramsay (former Secretary) and Jayne Stevenson (former Catering Convenor).

Apologies were received from Vanessa Lawrence, Emma Boyle, Karen McGimpsey and Ian Watson.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (31st May 2023)

The Minute of the last meeting held on 31st May 2023 was approved by Heather Knox and seconded by Josephine Docherty, as a true record of that meeting.

3. Pastoral Update

In the absence of Ian Watson, Kevin Boyd provided the following update:

- a) **Check-in during strike days:** >50% of school year groups had checked in daily online during the strike days earlier this week (Mon & Tue). Members of the senior leadership team had checked in with vulnerable youngsters and provided support where necessary. Paper packs were prepared for students who do not have online access; there had not been a huge uptake with home learning and it was recognised that some parents were unable to fully support home learning, given work and caring responsibilities.
- b) The **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)** has opened for applications.
- c) **Pupil Attendance:** The pastoral team had met with Ian Leishman (Education Services) for a renewed focus on pupil attendance. Belmont Academy has 5 Attendance Leads within the school (1 for each school house); currently attendance levels average between 85 – 90% and work is ongoing with families with a view to improving attendance to a minimum of 90%+.

4. Head Teacher Update (Kevin Boyd)

a) Roll/Staffing

Census day took place on 13th September and the school roll was confirmed as **1225 pupils**. 218 S1 have had a positive start and young people have settled in quickly.

The school is staffed at 85.3 FTE and this is an increase of 2.9 FTE from last session. 2.7 FTE is additional staffing until Easter and 0.2 FTE is due to the increased school roll.

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm

Conference/e-Learning Room



Once again, Belmont Academy is the largest secondary school in South Ayrshire. This is helpful in terms of continued capacity to support young people and deliver a wide range of curricular pathways and experiences.

Whilst accommodation in the Academy continues to be very tight, it remains manageable at this level. Thanks to Mrs Flanagan for picking up the reins from Mr Anderson and her solution-focused approach to whole school Timetabling.

New staff:

- Miss Cara Smith – PE (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Robert Walker – Technical (Perm 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Andrew McCrorie – Geography (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Mrs Helen McCall – School Assistant (Temp)
- Miss Sarah-Jane Griffiths (Temp)
- Mrs Helen McCall (Temp)

Returning staff:

- Miss Kirsty Nisbet – Biology (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Miss Nadya Barlow – Computing (Temp 0.8 FTE)
- Mrs Jennifer Corcoran – English (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Ms Zoe Watson – History & Mods (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Ms Jennifer Risk – History (Temp 0.6 FTE)
- Ms Mandy Hutcheson – Music (0.4 FTE)
- Mr Kris Leggat – PE (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Craig Reid – RMPS (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Daniel Gurney – Tech (Temp 1.0 FTE)
- Mr Alan Mills – Pupil Support (Perm 0.8 FTE Cluster staff)

NQTs:

- Miss Ashleigh Jamieson – Art
- Mr John Wilson – Chemistry
- Mr Lewis McWilliam – Maths
- Miss Taylor Sturgeon – Modern Languages
- Mr Jordan Law - PE

Acting posts:

- Mrs Julie McCaig – Acting DHT (Lomond House)
- Mrs Dawn Slider – Acting PT Pupil Support
- Mrs Louise Ferguson – Acting PTG (Arran House)
- Miss Laura MacMillan – Acting PT Music (0.2 FTE Wednesday)
- Mr Robert Duffin – Acting PT English & Drama
- Miss Alison Harvey – Acting PT Mathematics
- Miss Sarah Boyd – Acting PT Modern Languages
- Mr Iain Phillips – Acting PT PE

Adverts:

Five PT posts will be filled at the start of this session and we will also try to recruit permanent School Assistant posts. Current open adverts are:

- PT Modern Languages, interviews on 13th October (Caroline Kennedy)
- Teacher of Physics (Liam Mitchell joining Wellington as PT).

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm

Conference/e-Learning Room



Levels of staff absence are currently low, however there are currently three members of staff who are off long term. Staffing challenges remain in Modern Languages and RMPS. Overall the staffing situation is reasonably settled for the moment and there has been a positive start to the new session.

b) S6 Leadership Team 2023-2024

We appointed the S6 Leadership Team prior to the summer holiday and Mrs Flanagan is working closely with them, including activity related to the Pupil Improvement Plan. Representatives of School Captaincy Team will join future Parent Council meetings to report on their work and wider school activities.

c) Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities are now starting to get up and running with sports taking place throughout the week. Other clubs and activities are also being organised and getting up and running.

d) Senior Phase Attainment

Thank you to all staff, led by Mr Sinclair (SQA Co-ordinator), for their support and hard work to successfully deliver the SQA diet. Congratulations to all young people on their achievements.

SQA attainment remains extremely strong in the Senior Phase, particularly at Higher and Advanced Higher levels. A presentation on attainment levels was delivered (copy attached).



1a HT Report
Attainment 27-09-23 v

e) Vision, Values & Aims

Due to time constraints, Mr Boyd was unable to provide an update on the school's vision, values & aims – he agreed to deliver this at the next meeting.

Action: K Boyd

5. New School Website

Physics Teacher, Liam Mitchell, accompanied by Sarah Kyle (Design & Technical) presented the new school website which they'd created, with assistance from colleagues. The website has been completely revamped and will include sections headed: Our School, News, Events, Pupils, Parents & Carers, Careers etc. The plan is to launch the new website by the October half term.

Parent members welcomed the content of the new website and applauded the work of those involved in pulling together the content and presenting in a straightforward, user-friendly manner. They welcomed its launch in the coming weeks.

6. Belmont Funding Futures (BFF) Update (Emma Brown)

Emma explained that members of BFF had met with members of the Pupil Council earlier in the year and a questionnaire was circulated to all year groups in order to gather the thoughts and views of the wider school community, with regards fund-raising ideas. (Results of the survey were still to follow), but some suggestions included:

BELMONT ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting

Wed 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm

Conference/e-Learning Room



- a) Summer Raffle (Jun 2023)
- b) Joint Halloween Disco between Kyle Academy/Belmont Academy (Oct 2023)
- c) Art exhibition (Nov 2023)
- d) Children in Need (Nov 2023)
- e) Poppy Appeal (Nov 2023)
- f) Night before Christmas Campaign (Dec 2023)
- g) Christmas Concert (Dec 2023)

– Specific dates for all events to be sent to Emma Brown.

Action: K Boyd

Emma explained there had been challenges in conducting a summer raffle, but the prizes which had been donated could be used at a raffle during the art exhibition which is scheduled for Nov 2023. Susan Bell agreed to contact local supermarkets to seek donations for the Nov art exhibition raffle.

Action: S Bell

It was recognised that a card reader would be beneficial, since many parents do not carry cash to events held within the school. David would explore this option.

Action: D Bulloch

Last year, only a few parent members had been involved in fund-raising attempts, with a plea put to all parent members to support fund-raising attempts from BFF.

7. Any Other Business

a) **Merit/De-merit Rewards Scheme** – Julie McCaig is leading on this scheme and she has a twilight evening scheduled with staff members to explain the approach proposed for the forthcoming school year, with an attempt to promote positive behaviour, with links to a merit system, with awards issued before Christmas and summer holidays. Julie will provide a presentation to the Parent Council at a future PC Meeting to seek feedback.

Action: K Boyd

b) **Breakfast Club** – Due to staff shortages, there has been a temporary pause on the breakfast club which had been running in school, whereby students could receive free toast before classes started in the morning.

c) **School Meals Price Increase** – There has been a rise in the cost of meals within the school, for both pupils and teachers.

d) **Sports Equipment** – Queries were raised as to the state of badminton racquets within the PE department, with lack of grips on racquets causing blisters for some students. Mr Boyd agreed to liaise with the PE department to determine the situation and would agree funds for replacement grips, if necessary.

Action: K Boyd

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 25th October 2023** at **6.30pm** in the **Conference/e-Learning Room** within Belmont Academy.