

**Minutes of Bantaskin Parent Council  
Annual Parent Forum**

**Thursday 24 September 2009 at 1845**

*Present :*

*Lorraine Richardson – Peat, Chairperson*

*Annette Yuile, Vice – Chairperson*

*Allan Thomson, Treasurer*

*David Hopkins, Brian Peat, Parent Council Members*

*Mhairi Haldane, Parent Council Staff Representative*

*Antonia Higgins, Lorna Reid, Justin Harvey, Brian McLaren, Mhairi Maxwell, Parents*

*Alan Campbell, Headteacher*

*John Patrick, Local Councillor*

*Diane Cherry, Beverley Ferguson, Lorraine Mcfarlane, Falkirk Council*

1. Welcome

Lorraine welcomed everyone along to the meeting. She was pleased to see that several non Parent Council members of the Parent Forum were attending this year.

2. Apologies

These had been received from Tom Purves, Parent Council Member

3. Adoption of the 2008 Annual Parent Forum Minutes

These were approved.

4. Reports

a) Chairperson, Lorraine Richardson-Peat

Lorraine presented her report highlighting :

- the production of a new style Parent Council Newsletter and a new information leaflet for parents explaining the role of the Parent Council.
- providing information on the Curriculum for Excellence
- responses made to both Falkirk Council and Scottish Government consultations.
- issues arising from the construction of the new High School including retention of the enlarged car park and the temporary path from Westburn Avenue.
- working with Councillor Georgie Thomson to try to eradicate unsafe and illegal car parking near the school.
- supporting the school to try to overturn a proposal from Falkirk Council to reduce the number of teachers which would result in composite classes.
- working with the school to try to improve supervision of pupils during wet intervals and lunchtimes.
- seeking assurances following the Council's literacy review that action will be taken to improve attainment levels
- involvement in the interview process for the part time Depute Head post. The Parent Council had taken steps to ensure

that it was allowed the maximum participation in the interview process.

- successfully asking the school to increase the frequency of the pupil review process.
- asking Mr Campbell to ensure that there is a wider participation in Parent Focus Groups rather than a small number of hand picked parents.
- trying to get the school to hold the Meet the Teacher Event in the evening rather than the afternoon to maximise attendance and minimise disruption to learning. It was particularly disappointing that after this was agreed by all including Mr Campbell at a Parent Council Meeting it was subsequently changed to an afternoon event without further referral to the Parent Council. The parent members are concerned that the consensus reached at the meeting was so clearly ignored and continue to pursue this matter with Falkirk Council and others.

b) Treasurer – Allan Thomson

The year-end balance was a surplus of £539.91.

£500 will be received From Falkirk Council for expenses during the next academic year once accounts have been submitted.

Allan noted that as he is stepping down from the Parent Council because he no longer has any children at Bantaskin a new cheque signatory will be required. A replacement signatory will also be required for Annette Yuile who will no longer be Vice Chairperson.

Allan offered to have a handover meeting with the new Treasurer.

As there were some uncertainties regarding the use of Parent Council funds Diane Cherry gave details of a networking session on financial guidelines to be held at Polmont.

c) Vice- Chairperson – Annette Yuile

Annette reported that she is stepping down due to other pressures on her time. She also felt that the Parent Council had experienced constant barriers from the school in trying to achieve things over several years. The overturning of the decision to hold a Meet the Teacher evening had been the last straw for her.

## 5. Parent Council Vacancies

Lorraine confirmed that she is stepping down as Chairperson after five years chairing the PTA then Parent Council. The main reasons were the length of time she has spent in these posts and a feeling that she was not being listened to when putting across the views of the Parent Council. She undertook to remain an active member of the Parent Council and was prepared to be Vice- Chairperson if no one else wanted this role.

Diane Cherry noted that under the constitution if no one wants to be Chairperson the role can be rotated but this has not proved satisfactory in other schools.

After further discussion Brian McLaren was elected as chairperson – proposed Mhairi Maxwell and seconded Justin Harvey.

Antonia Higgins was then elected Vice Chairperson – proposed Lorraine Richardson-Peat and seconded Mhairi Maxwell.

David Hopkins volunteered to be Treasurer – proposed Brian Peat and seconded Annette Yuile.

Mhairi Maxwell and Lorna Reid became members of the Parent Council. Justin Harvey said that his wife, Nicola, also wished to become a member.

#### 6. A.O.B.

Lorraine Richardson –Peat proposed an amendment to the minutes of the 27 May 2009 Parent Council meeting. She felt that it was insufficiently clear that a Meet the Teacher Evening had been agreed. This proposal was withdrawn after Allan Thomson pointed out that the word evening was in the title of the minute and it was quite clear that this was what had been agreed to by all present. Lorraine then checked with everyone present who was at the 27<sup>th</sup> May meeting including Mhairi Haldane and Alan Campbell whether this was what had been agreed and received confirmation from everyone that indeed this was the case

It was agreed to add apologies from Councillor Georgie Thomson to the minutes of the same meeting.

Lorraine Richardson- Peat asked if the school had received any compensation from Fitzcharles Coaches after the very late running of the coach back from the Primary 7 trip to Dalguise. Alan Campbell said that Mrs Baxter was dealing with this. Brian Peat agreed to check the position with Mrs Baxter and if appropriate to contact Fitzcharles Coaches. (Post meeting note – compensation received and the relevant parents notified of how this is to be used).

#### 7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday 22 October at 1900.

#### 8. Close

The meeting was closed at 1950.

