

Minutes of the GGS Parent Council held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th May 2012

Part A: Main meeting at 7pm.

**1. Welcome**

The Parent Council formally congratulated Jaci Douglas on her re-election as Councillor.

**Present**

Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Sally Pilkington	Vice Chair, Fundraising
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Mr Giles Baker	Chair, Parent Council
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Anne Sullivan	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	Treasurer
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth	Vice Chair, Policy & Planning
Mrs Elaine Cullen	
Mr Dugal McCrow	
Mrs Zoe Cooke	
Mrs Liz Amphlett	
Clr Jaci Douglas	
Mrs Debbie Strang	

**2. Apologies**

Mrs Ishbel Rose	
Mr Andy Liggat	Vice Chair, Communications
Mrs Hayley Muir	
Mr Robert Brown	
Mr Alex McLure	School Captain, Revack
Mrs Ruth Bruce	

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting provided an accurate record. This was proposed by Mrs McAuly-Brand and seconded by Mrs Pilkington.

**4. Inspection: Comments on the letter to parents**

Mr Baker explained his and Mrs Forsyth's involvement in the inspection and commented that it was reassuring how much support the school receives. Overall it was felt the report was good. Mrs Carson said parents could request hard copies of the report from the school office.  
Mrs Carson and Mr McCrow had attended a conference the previous day and made presentations on the curriculum and the inspection.

Inspections are now very supportive and, at such an early stage in the new curriculum, the school did well.

Tuesday afternoons are to become a flexible period on the timetable to allow for participation in masterclasses, community programmes, Student council meetings and rehearsal times. This will involve the whole school, replacing Making Connections which, while positive in skills development, there was scope for increasing cross communication links and CfE Es and Os.

The timetable restructure was distributed and explained. It will provide opportunities for personalization of choice, sustainable development, education, enterprise and other exciting possibilities including the opportunity to participate in the 'Young Philanthropist Initiative' pilot for the Highlands. There are already 14 schools involved in areas where this has previously been piloted and their experience has been positive.

5. **Inspection: Actions on areas for improvement**

Mr Baker suggested the Parent Council remind parents about the moderated blog. He also suggested setting up a closed Facebook page to include important information such as dates, that parents could opt into. Mr Liggat would administer the page. It was suggested this would reach more people. Not everyone has a Facebook page. Mrs Carson expressed serious reservations about a Facebook page – something which the Highland ICT group suggests schools are wary about. Councillor Douglas suggested the idea was run past Moira McCarrell. The idea, which would initially be a trial, will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Headteacher's report**

To be presented in the next meeting.

7. **Depute Head Appointments**

Interviews for two Deputes to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> May to decide on the short list. One Depute will have Curriculum responsibility, the other pastoral responsibility. A further interview will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, to include Parent Council representatives. Mr Baker has attended a meeting to discuss the process. Suggestions of questions to put to candidates on behalf of the Parent Council would be welcomed.

8. **Co-option**

Item 8 on the agenda was discussed after item 5 to allow Councillor Douglas to leave for another meeting. She is to seek guidance on whether she can be a candidate for co-option. Councillor Douglas informed the meeting that the Highland Council is looking into the server issue of access to Youtube. Hugh Fraser has confirmed that the authority and not Headteachers is responsible for pupils on buses.

9. **Recruitment of a Treasurer**  
Due to work commitments, Mrs Wharton is no longer able to be Treasurer. Mr Baker appealed to all to think of someone who might take over.
10. **Matters arising from previous minutes (not already covered)**  
The locker situation will need to be discussed. Mr Baker asked Mr McCrow for a report for the next meeting. There are 28 lockers on each floor.  
A double decker bus has been used on a temporary basis. A cctv camera has also been in use. These are on a temporary basis but it was suggested the Parent Council writes a letter asking for these on a regular basis.  
There is to be a Drugs and alcohol session in September.  
Residential opportunities are still being offered as part of the curriculum. Flexible Tuesdays will replace Making Connections. All teachers will be available for projects.  
Mr Baker to email Councillor Douglas to ask about the Driving Ambitions Simulator.
11. **Any other business**  
Mrs Cooke stood in as lollipop lady for the Grantown Primary school and noticed some near misses as cars drove past on the way to the Grammar School at 8.50am. She appealed for drivers to use the High Street at this time. Mr McCrow will bring up at the Friday morning staff meeting. It was suggested this could be put in the newsletter.
12. **Date of next meeting**  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

**Part B: Fundraising Group Meeting, including Treasurer's Report**

Lucky Number Draw:	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
February	27	4	37
March	44	14	3
April	51	3	48
May	25	15	44

Mrs Wharton distributed the Treasurer's Report and explained it. The Lucky Number forms should be distributed in August.

Mrs Pilkington asked Mr McCrow about a teacher link to the Fundraising Group. Mrs Pilkington went over a questionnaire about the Pupil Council and what improvements pupils would like to see made to the school. The top answer was an outdoor social area. Miss Taylor and Mr O'Brien are organising Pupil Council proposal models which will be presented to year group assemblies. The Pupil Council will meet on Tuesday afternoons up to the summer holidays. A 6th form common room/social area will be on the Fundraising agenda next time. Decisions on the girls toilets will rest with the Policy and Planning Group. Mr Baker asked if someone could identify outdoor furniture and the possible cost. Mrs Cooke suggested Glenmore Lodge might like to contribute.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.