

Minutes of the Policy Planning Group meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th May 2010.

Members of Kingussie High School Parent Council were present at the meeting.

1. Welcome

Mr McCook opened the meeting with a welcome to all present and a special welcome to members of the Kingussie Parent Council who attended. Everyone present introduced themselves to the group.

Present

Mr Sandy McCook Convenor
Mrs Cath Buxton Clerk
Mrs Heather Tucker Chair Fundraising Group
Mrs Kate Young Treasurer
Mrs Hayley Muir
Miss Kendal Delaney
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand
Mr Robert Brown
Mrs Claire Thom
Mrs Irene Carson Headteacher
Mr Giles Baker
Mrs Liz Amphlett
Tracy Wharton
Cllr Gregor Rimmell
Kingussie Parent Council

2. Apologies

Cllr Jaci Douglas
Mr Andy Liggat Chair Communications Group
Mr Chris Bremner
Mr Barry Main
Mr Dugal McCrow
Mrs Ann Sullivan

3. Minutes of last meeting

Mrs Amphlett proposed the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting and Mrs Muir seconded the proposal. The minutes were duly adopted.

4. Matters arising

Mrs Carson informed the meeting that carpets have now been laid in rooms 5 and 17.

At this point Mr McCook and Mrs Carson left to lead a tour of the new STEM building for the Kingussie Parent Council.

The Fundraising Group, which now meets with the Policy & Planning Group, took this opportunity to have their discussion:

Mr McCrow was organizing the Quiz night, which would be held in the Ben Mhor Hotel at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th May. Mr McCrow would be the caller and the Technology Department was providing a screen and projector. Pupils had taken fliers home but posters would still be needed. An appeal was made for raffle prizes and four people to man the tickets and raffle stall.

An appeal was made for help at the Sports Day on the 28th June. Parents would have to be told the Fundraising Group will be at the Sports Day selling refreshments. The possibility of providing choc ices was discussed but rejected.

The Fundraising Group will have a presence at the P7 Parents Evening on the 23rd June. Mr McCook will include the group in his address to the parents. Forms will be distributed with a newsletter in the new term to encourage offers of help at Parent Council functions. At present it is a problem getting enough people to help at discos.

New fundraising schemes – Edupayment and the Gourmet Society – had been suggested. It was decided to keep using the webshop for now to allow people to get used to it. It also pays the best commission.

The sponsored walk is to go ahead in September. It will be the main fundraiser. Mr Baker will plan a gift aid sponsor sheet. He was advised to discuss this with Mr Croall, who organizes the sponsored walk.

Mrs Tucker invited new ideas for fundraising. One suggestion was a champagne and cake auction. Nethy primary is to hold one in June so we will see how that goes. Another possibility is a silent auction.

At this point Mrs Carson and Mr McCook returned with the Kingussie Parent Council and the meeting resumed.

5. School Dress Code update

The pupil council will not be able to discuss this until June. The Inverness supplier is offering a more flattering uniform and appropriate clothes for hot days. The summer wear is more crucial at present. Black or white T-shirts or polo shirts are acceptable with shorts of a decent length. Strappy tops and bare midriffs are unacceptable. Schools in Inverness suggest one branded item of uniform plus sensible shorts. At GGS black or grey would be preferred. Mrs Carson will suggest acceptable summer clothing in the newsletter. Mrs Muir asked if the Parent Council would be happy to go to Highland Schoolwear, from whom it is possible to order by phone or their webshop, which will be available by the summer. It was agreed this would be an option in addition to local suppliers, "Yo" and "The Wee Gooseberry". An A4 sheet of what is supplied will be made available to parents of the new S1 at the P7 Parents' Evening. Mrs Muir to discuss with Mrs Thom.

6. Headteacher's report

Budget: There is a carry forward of £32,000. £20,000 of this is due to an underspend in electric (balancing much of the overspend from the previous year). There has also been additional specific funding e.g. for development work from other sources which carries forward to the new session. We are however in a much healthier position than we have been for some years.

Staffing: The school roll is expected to be 437 in August. We will have 4 probationers – 2 in English, 1 in biology and 1 in chemistry. There are not enough maths probationers for us to have one and we are currently looking to how best to cover the maths vacancy while Mrs Grant is on maternity leave. Interviews for Home Economics teachers will be held on Monday 24th May. Joanne Healy, who is currently in Nairn, and Jo Cairns have been appointed as Guidance teachers to cover maternity leave. Due to maternity cover we are 4 teachers over our entitlement (including 3 on mat leave so effectively only 1 teacher over entitlement).

INSET on the 31st May will involve primary and secondary staff working together in the morning on sharing standards for assessment of the new curriculum. Secondary staff will participate in developments related formative assessment in the afternoon.

The S1, 2 and 3 Award Ceremonies will take place separately on Tuesday 25th May. The speaker at the senior graduation ceremony in June will be Ewan Robertson.

There will be a Britspace project manager on site full-time here and at Nairn Academy. A meeting was held to discuss work to be carried out in the summer holidays. The art department has already moved a lot to the new rooms. Room 10 and 11 will be refurbished in the summer along with the old science rooms. Mr McCook asked if that would complete the work to be done and Mrs Carson said it would (with the exception of the link to the new building). Mrs Muir asked about safety issues with the new building. Mrs Carson indicated that this was a technical matter which she could not respond to as it was in the hands of Housing and Property however she has been given assurances that there are no safety concerns. Problems with the floor have been recognized as an issue and will be addressed in the summer.

7. Reports from other groups (as appropriate)

In the absence of Mr Liggat there was no Communication group report.

Mrs Tucker reported discussions of the Fundraising group, noted earlier in these minutes. Mrs Carson added the S2 Making Connections pupils who wanted to organize a fun day might do some of their activities at the sports day to raise funds. They have a signed Celtic ball. Parents would be invited and pupils would need money if they would like to buy refreshments.

Remaining money will go to fund ICT but this cannot be spent until further information is received from Fujitsu.

8. Discussions with Kingussie Parent Council

The Kingussie Parent Council representatives were interested that GGS PC has charity status and might discuss applying for themselves. Mr McCook explained the process to the new constitution and how webshop works.

The format of newsletters and communications to parents was discussed.

Grantown Grammar School lessons end at 1.15pm on Fridays but public service

buses transport pupils home at the usual time if they choose to stay to take part in any extra curricular activities. In Kingussie the Parent council fundraise to pay for transport for pupils following after-school activities, which finish at 5.30pm.

On the 23rd June there will be a consultation ward forum at Boat of Garten. This will allow discussion of additional support provision and the proposed cuts.

9. Any other business

Mr McCook thanked the Kingussie Parent Council for attending the meeting. It was suggested the two groups meet again in the future to discuss items of mutual interest.

Mrs Young distributed and explained her financial report. The April disco raised £440. Available funds amount to £9,413.03 which includes £5,000 already agreed for the school.

It was agreed that, following discos, S6 pupils should count the proceeds ready for Mrs Young to bank. When filling out the let form the canteen should be included along with the hall.

Mrs Young gave her apologies in advance for the next meeting but will provide a Treasurer's report.

Mrs Carson thanked Mrs Wharton for coming to the meeting. Mrs Wharton is considering the post of treasurer when Mrs Young's period in the post ends. Mr McCook asked if Mrs Young would stay until the AGM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 16th of June at 7.30pm, in the Grammar school staffroom.

Mr McCook thanked everybody for coming and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.