

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st June 2011.

1. Welcome

Mr McCook opened the meeting and welcomed the new School Captains who were present for the first time.

Present

Mr Sandy McCook	Convenor
Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Hayley Muir	
Mr Giles Baker	
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Liz Amphlett	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	Treasurer
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Miss Alexandra Macleod	School Captain, Revoan
Mr Alex Mclure	School Captain, Revack
Mr Jamie Trinder	School Captain, Roy

2. Apologies

Mr Robert Brown
Mrs Claire Thom
Miss Kendal Delaney
Mrs Sharon Kerr
Mr Dugal McCrow
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth
Mr Malcolm Smith
Cllr Jaci Douglas

3. Minutes of last meeting

Mrs McAuly-Brand proposed the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting and Mrs Wharton seconded the proposal. The minutes were duly adopted.

4. Matters arising

The school roll projection is 430.

The new music teacher, Lauren Tait, who will be joining us next term, is not an NQT and will be on a 0.4 timetable.

NQts joining us next term are Ruth McEneaney (English) Andrew Nias (Technical) and Laura Taylor (History).

Interviews for Physics and Science will be held on Friday.

There has been a big uptake by senior pupils for blazers.

5. Introductions of School Captains

Mrs Carson welcomed the new School Captains and invited them to introduce themselves. They are Alexandra Macleod (Revoan), Jamie Trinder (Roy) and Alex McLure (Revack).

Mr McCook invited them all to come to as many meetings as they can over the next school year and reminded them that they can contribute to discussions whenever they like.

6. Funding requests from departments

Mrs Carson had asked Departments for Development Bids. She distributed copies of the bids. Looking at the items requested as a whole it had been noted that there was a lot of demands for cameras. Mrs Carson felt these could be held in a central place by the technician. ICT bids will be considered when we know the final outcome for ICT equipment.

The Parent Council approved bids from Geography for fieldwork equipment, Maths for compasses and clinometers, P.E. for outdoor equipment, Science for a projectile launcher and a telescope, Technical for woodturning tools for quality work and lunch-time clubs and Music for equipment such as a full set of keyboards and more guitars. These are additional pieces of equipment to allow practical music classes outwith the department. Funding is also available for the Student Council to do work in school.

There have been lots of requests for books, partly due to larger classes. However, it has been noted that some books are not returned to school by pupils after study leave. Text books are expensive. It was agreed that this issue needs to be addressed. Alex McLure suggested the Student Council discuss this when they meet. Mr McCook suggested asking for a deposit but this raises the issue of cash collection and receipting. It was suggested a system of recording should be looked into. Mrs Muir suggested bar-coding the books as in the library.

The school will invoice the Parent Council for the successful bids in August. Meanwhile, Mrs Wharton will do the accounts, noting that the sum of £5,664.61 is allocated for items to be bought in August. The Parent Council accounts end 31st July.

7. S1 Consultation meeting – feedback

Mrs Carson invited Mrs McAuly-Brand to comment on the consultation evening which she had attended as a parent. Mrs McAuly-Brand explained this had been a parent-led discussion in groups. She felt it might have been beneficial to have a member of staff in each group. Mrs Amphlett suggested keeping the initial parent discussion with a member of staff joining the group later. Mrs Carson said ten parents had come forward after that meeting asking to be involved further. She

explained that members of staff are going through the learning process too. She felt the group discussion method was preferable to just giving a talk and feels parents should have the opportunity to say what they would like for their children in school and how it should happen. The response sheets gave a clear picture of what parents see as important and highlight the uncertainty. The school aims to help parents understand the new system. Mr Baker felt the evening was a practical demonstration of what the CfE is about . finding information for themselves. Mrs Carson said lots of decisions are to be made over the next few months.

8. Any other business

Mr McCook asked if anyone intended going to the P7 ParentsqEvening. Two people present would be there as parents. He suggested Mrs Carson could mention the Parent Council and indicate the parents who are already involved so new parents can ask for background information if they wish. Mr McCook suggested some paragraphs in the Strathy School Notes explaining the Parent Council's charitable status and saying what has been bought for the school.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30th August 2011 at 7.30pm.

Mr McCook thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.