

Minutes of the GGS Parent Council held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd August 2012

Part A: Fundraising Sub-Committee, including Treasurer's Report, 7.30pm

Welcome

Mr Baker opened the Fundraising Sub-Committee meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Present

Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Mr Giles Baker	Chair, Parent Council
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Anne Sullivan	
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth	Vice Chair, Policy & Planning
Mrs Elaine Cullen	
Mrs Zoe Cooke	
Mrs Liz Amphlett	
Miss Hannah Druce	School Captain, Roy
Miss Kirsty Laing	School Captain, Revoan
Miss Caitlin Paton	School Captain, Revack
Mr Andy Liggat	Vice Chair, Communications
Mr Ollie Bray	Depute Headteacher
Mrs Claire McGonigal	Depute Headteacher
Mrs Jo Blair	
Mrs Karen Smith	Treasurer

Apologies

Mrs Ishbel Rose	
Mrs Sally Pilkington	Vice Chair, Fundraising
Clr Jaci Douglas	
Mr Robert Brown	
Mrs Sharon Kerr	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	
Mrs Debbie Strang	

1. Financial Report

Mr Baker briefly explained the financial report.

2. Spending Requests

a. Kindle Software

Mrs Blair, principal teacher of Learning Support explained that the department has bought two kindles. These need to be registered and e-books downloaded. It was agreed that the

account could be managed by the Parent Council and that £200 a year would be granted in order to buy e-books. Mr Baker can get a further 5% discount. Kindles might eventually be under the control of Fujitsu, which could affect their upkeep in the future.

b. Other

Mrs Carson congratulated the School Captains on their fantastic start in their roles and invited them to talk about their plans for a new outdoor social area. Caitlin explained

- that they have discussed using the corner of the field where the old shed used to be and that House Captains Alan Mackintosh and Rory Boyd have drawn up a plan and researched the internet for costs. They have estimated this to come to around £700. A canvas roof would be used that can be removed when it snows. Planning permission will not be required.
- Motivational messages on walls and a wall of achievement in the main building.
- Bike storage is still to be discussed with the student council. School Captains to come back to the Parent Council with ideas.

Mr Baker proposed a sum of £1,000 in total towards these improvements, no more than £800 on item 1 and no more than £300 on item 2. This was agreed by all present.

3. Locker report

Mr Anderson, the janitor, has cleared out all the lockers and made sure they are in good working order. There are 110 lockers. Last year's student council suggested lockers are made available for a year at a time and pupils would empty them by the summer holidays. It was suggested there would be a charge of £5 a year with priority being given to S6, S5, then S1 pupils. If they are all used we may need to re-think. This was agreed by all.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. AOB

The Welcome Disco will take place on Thursday 6th September. Mrs Cullen, Mr Baker and possibly Mrs Forsyth will attend. Mrs Pilkington will ask for parent volunteers.

The Lucky Numbers were drawn as follows:

June	1 st	Mrs McKay
	2 nd	Mrs D Ritchie
	3 rd	Mrs D Grant
July	1 st	Mrs S Thom
	2 nd	Mrs E Amphlett

	3 rd	Mrs M Yule
August	1 st	Mrs C Talbot-Heigh
	2 nd	Mrs M Yule
	3 rd	Mrs V Atkinson

Part B: Policy & Planning meeting, 8pm

1. **Welcome**
Mr Baker welcomed everybody to the second part of the meeting.
2. **Apologies**
These were dealt with in the first meeting tonight.
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 Sullivan.
4. **Co-option**
The co-option of Councillor Douglas will be carried out at the next meeting.

Mr Baker explained that Mrs Smith has volunteered to take over as Treasurer from Mrs Wharton. Her position as Treasurer was proposed by Mrs Forsyth and seconded by Mr Liggat. Mrs Smith was duly appointed. A new bank mandate will be completed.

5. **Recruitment of a Clerk**
Mr Baker explained that Mrs Buxton, who has been clerk since January 2008, wishes to resign. Mr Baker has discussed the position with Moira McCarell who said that many Parent Councils no longer pay for a Clerk's services. Mr Baker asked if any parents would volunteer to be a secretary. No-one came forward. The post will be advertised in the school newsletter and to staff to gauge interest. Mrs Carson explained that Mrs Buxton is resigning due to her increased work commitments since her role has changed recently and Mrs Buxton added she has very much enjoyed being clerk over the past few years and will continue for a reasonable period until a replacement is found. Mr Baker's paper on the issues surrounding a clerk appointment was accepted subject to clarification being given within circulars and to the next meeting about whether a parent could serve as Clerk. £50 per meeting plus £200 a year was proposed by Mrs Cooke as suitable fees along the lines of the suggestion in the paper and no dissent was expressed. The paper will be ratified by the next meeting.

There was discussion about how the possibility of payment be covered in the Parent Council newsletter. This will need consideration after Mr

Baker has researched the eligibility of parents, but Mrs Carson suggested it could be entitled a 'gratuity'.

6

Date of AGM

The AGM will be held in the school hall on Tuesday the 25th September 2012

7.

Headteacher's report

S6 pupils are taking on their role very positively.

Funds for decoration have meant new carpets in the computing rooms and planned for rooms 15 and 16 when the windows are complete. The ground floor corridor has been brightened up and S6 chose the colour scheme for the girls' toilets. Funds are available to do the first floor.

Windows should be in by the end of the October holidays. Mrs McGonigal explained everything is proceeding according to plan. Some of the windows have to be replaced from last time.

There has been a positive start for the two new Deputes. Mrs McGonigal will be the link to the Parent Council and Mr Bray will link with Mr Liggat on the Communications side.

Due to lightning the previous week there have been no phones. A blown box was replaced but two other problems, still to be resolved, where outside school.

Mrs Cooke requested a plan so that parents are more aware of what is happening on Tuesdays. The Tuesday timetables are being put out two weeks ahead. It is on the internal website but it is hoped that it will be posted on the external website by next week. Mrs Carson explained one of the recent timetables.

The Young Philanthropist launch will be in the afternoon of the 17th September. Mrs Carson invited everyone to attend. Anyone interested should let her know. Mr Baker expressed an interest It will take place in the hall with presentations.

Mrs McGonigal explained that Grantown Grammar School's strength lies in Outdoor opportunities. These very much fit in with the Curriculum for Excellence. Knowledge is only half of what pupils are to be examined on – they also have to be able to apply themselves and evaluate and pupils at GGS are building on these abilities now. Mr Bray said it is important pupils see these opportunities as an extension of the curriculum.

Other new teaching staff:

Guidance: Miss M Alexander
Support for Learning: Mrs L da Costa
Art: Mr L Wickstead
Maths: Miss I Paterson and Miss J McKenna
PE: Mr T Magowan

SQA results were really positive.

There will be an HMI follow up on 3rd September, meeting with SMT to look at weak areas. Ruth Binks has worked with Mrs Carson on improvement priorities. The plan is a three year cycle. A new cycle begins after 2014.

All pupils have new planners. There is an expectation that these will be placed on desks in all lessons.

We are still waiting for wi-fi. There will also be a public access wi-fi to allow visitors to use their own laptops. We are just waiting for a contract. We will be one of the first state schools in Scotland to get this.

8. **Matters arising from previous minutes (not already covered)**

The Driving Ambitions simulator will arrive before Christmas.

The Facebook page possibility will be put on hold for the moment.

Buses – There is overcrowding on the Nethy bus and pupils are being asked to stand. The bus passes have not yet arrived. They will stipulate which pupils take which bus. Mr Baker has emailed the Highland Council but has had no reply.

Mrs Cooke asked if the traffic issue past the primary school could be highlighted. This is more of a community issue. Perhaps it can be covered in the Strathie.

9. **Any other business**

Sponsored walk – The Deputes and Head of PE are all new in post so should have time to settle in. A sponsored walk, so soon, would not be appropriate. Mr Bray suggested a sponsored Santa run, closer to Christmas. Everyone pays a sum of money and would be provided with a Santa suit. Mr Bray to research Santa suits!

Mr Liggat requested input from Chair and Vice Chairs for the newsletter by Monday night.

Mr Liggat requested the school and Parent Council websites go back to being integral. The present link does not work. This would make it easier for the school to manage the site. The PC is a charity and has a web-shop. Mr Liggat to discuss with Mr Bray. The Parent Council agreed they are happy for Mr Liggat and Mr Bray to make appropriate decisions in this matter. Mr Liggat will still run the blog. The school website is run by senior pupils and these are, in turn, training other pupils who will be able to carry on when they leave.

AGM, 25th September - There will be a presentation at 7pm 'The Curriculum for Excellence and Preparation for National Qualifications in Grantown Grammar School'

- An Overview of the Benefits of the New Curriculum by Ollie Bray
- What is new about the new qualifications by Dugal McCrow
- How our Tuesday afternoon programme will help prepare pupils for the future by Irene Carson

The AGM will follow at 7.30pm.

Mr Baker and Mrs Forsyth thanked the House Captains for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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