

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th May 2011.

1. Welcome

Mr McCook opened the meeting with a welcome to all present.

Present

Mr Sandy McCook	Convenor
Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Hayley Muir	
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Liz Amphlett	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	Treasurer
Mr Andy Liggat	Chair Communications Group
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Mr Robert Brown	

2. Apologies

Mrs Heather Tucker
Miss Kendal Delaney
Mrs Ann Sullivan
Mr Chris Bremner
Mr Giles Baker
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth
Mrs Ruth Bruce
Mr Dugal McCrow
Mrs Claire Thom
Cllr Jaci Douglas

3. Minutes of last meeting

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

4. Matters arising

The computer refresh has been slow. A number of issues have arisen in the pilot at Inverness High. It is also being piloted at Invergordon Academy. The school still cannot buy new ICT products, which is frustrating. However, Fujitsu is responding to issues arising in the pilots, which is good.

With regards to the print contract, an email was received yesterday requesting information on current printing. This is difficult to gauge since printing is done within departments. The school will carry on as we are doing until changes are put in place.

Fundraising . Mrs Wharton has taken on the Lucky Numbers. The draw for May was done last week and names of the winners will go out in the newsletter next week. The Parent Council still needs someone to take over the position of Fundraising Chair.

5. Treasurer's report

All the Sponsored Walk money has been collected and amounts to the sum of £3473.15. Mrs Wharton asked if Lucky Number information could go out with the prospectus in June.

A financial return letter to OSCR has been compiled and was shown to Parent Council members present. All were happy with the letter and Mr McCook signed it. A copy will be kept on file.

Monitors in room 12 need to be replaced by flat screens to allow more work space. This will cost £82 per computer. Nothing can be done until the embargo has been lifted. To move a computer to another room would cost £40 once everything is in place.

Mr McCook has pointed out that not all of the Parent Council money will be for IT and Mrs Carson agreed with this. If OSCR queries the money in the Parent Council account, this can be justified by the uncertainty in ICT which is preventing commitment to spending at present. After the exams ICT will be discussed and a plan and estimate will be produced. The new School Captains will be involved as well.

6. Fundraising

No report as there is no Fundraising Chair.

Mr McCook pointed out that new Fundraising and Policy Planning Chairs will have to be found due to the retirement of both this school year.

7. Communications

Mr Liggat requested information for the next Parent Council newsletter, which he will pass on to Mrs Carson once completed. This could include AGM information and a plea for new Fundraising and Policy & Planning Chairs.

The website has been updated and includes an application Form for Lucky Numbers. It is planned to incorporate information for parents of P7 pupils.

8. Policy and Planning Group

(i) Blazer Update

McLain Carter met with next year's seniors from the present S4/5. Zippy Embroidery sent a blazer with a school logo on the pocket. Highland Schoolwear can do a blazer with a badge. This would be slightly dearer than the blazers we saw at the last meeting. Both suppliers will be in school at the Senior Induction on the 7th June to show what they can offer. Mr McCook asked if the blazers are available off the shelf. Mrs Muir thought they would have to be ordered. Convenience for parents is very important. Mrs Muir suggested all of the suppliers use the same logo. Both the school and the Parent Council fully encourage the wearing of the blazer.

(ii) Headteacher's report

Budget . There is a positive carry forward of £46,000 which is a pleasant surprise! Savings have come from three maternity leaves and additional

income/support from other sources . impact of developments, tight management on department and other budgets, an embargo on spending.

Departments will be making bids by the end of May. There will be a review with the finance group who will then report back to the Parent Council There will be a significant impact on resources of larger classes moving up the school. Mrs Carson is also looking at addressing attainment issues in maths by reviewing resources, ensuring classes have appropriate access to resources to maximise potential for all pupils.

ICT update . Discussed earlier in meeting.

The school roll projection is around 435 pupils.

Staffing . There will be several changes for August. We cannot keep any of our present NQTs. All vacancies must go to NQTs, transfers and only advertised if they cannot be filled in this way. We were originally allocated 4 new NQTs next session . we do not know who they will be, yet. The NQTs have only been told the area they are coming to so far. If they accept the school is then told. We expect to hear early June. If they don't accept, we will be able to advertise.

Retirements . John Wright is to be replaced by an NQT, giving a 0.3 FTE saving. Kenny McGougan will be Acting PT Technology.

Dave Calder and Stella McKenzie will be replaced by Hamish Irvine from Charleston Academy. He will be 0.8 FTE, giving a 1.2 saving. There will be no PT post for ICT. Daphne Ritchie is a senior teacher. Amy Henderson will be Acting PT Maths.

Ian Hay will be replaced by Rachel Wood who is moving across to full time Geography, a 0.3 saving. Rachel is being seconded to Acting PT Geography and Modern Studies, with whole school responsibility for wider achievement, initially looking at D of E. Mike O'Brien is the Acting PT History & RME.

Rachel Wood's post . Acting PT Guidance . will almost certainly be Jo Cairns, although we are awaiting formal approval.

Nikki Grant will be returning 4 days per week for the next session. Amy Clark will be Acting PTG for that time.

Vacancies: We asked for an NQT in Physics. There were none in Highland so the school can advertise.

English . Had hoped to be able to advertise one full-time post, but were allocated an NQT. We have been allocated a further NQT for History.

Music . requested a 0.4 vacancy but have been allocated an NQT and charged for 0.4.

With the NQT teachers there are implications for support.

Timetable . this is now at the final stage. There will be changes in S1/2. There is no timetabled ICT but Daphne Ritchie is now included in the Making Connections team to provide master classes and support. Making Connections classes are timetabled to ICT rooms as appropriate. The time from ICT has been allocated as follows:

- S1 to Home Economics . all S1 have a double period of HE
- S2 to music. All S2 have a two periods of music, which leads to an accommodation issue. They will need to use the library and another room. There has been a big order for an additional set of equipment such as keyboards.

Options . Senior options . almost all seniors able to get preferred options. The class sizes are reasonable with the exception of languages but both will run. S3 options are very tight indeed but most are happy with what the school can offer and understand where there are issues.

There is very little space in classes for incomers: No space in S3 in Chemistry, Biology, Music, Graphic communication, SFW Hospitality.

S3 English has moved to mixed ability sections, which is very positive.

CfE

There will be a Parentsqinformation /consultation meeting and showcase, proposed for Wednesday 8th June at 6.30pm. This is aimed at parents of current S1 pupils, explaining the report before issuing it the same evening and explaining the new qualification structure. There has been some interest from parents who would like to be involved. Mrs Carson said it would be beneficial for some Parent Council members to attend.

The school roll is expected to start dropping in a couple of years time and this could impact on staffing.

9. Any other business

The Senior Graduation Ceremony will be held on the 14th June 2011.

The Ceilidh, originally planned for the 25th June has been postponed until after the holidays.

Date of next meetings:

- Tuesday 21st June 2011 at 7.30pm. The agenda will be specific to finance.
- Tuesday 30th August
- AGM . Tuesday 20th September 2011

Mr McCook thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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