

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th October 2011.

**1. Welcome**

Mrs Buxton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Present**

Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Sally Pilkington	
Mrs Debbie Strang	
Mrs Vicki Metcalfe	
Mrs Miriam Rensner	
Mr Andy Liggat	
Mrs Helen McLure	
Mr Alex McLure	School Captain, Revack
Mrs Hayley Muir	
Mrs Zoe Cooke	
Miss Kendal Delaney	
Mr Chris Bremner	
Mr Giles Baker	
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Liz Amphlett	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	Treasurer
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Mrs Claire Thom	
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth	

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Jaci Douglas  
Mrs Sharon Kerr  
Mrs Elaine Cullen  
Mr Dugal McCrow  
Mr Jamie Trinder  
Mr Robert Brown

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

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

**4. Matters arising**

The post of Janitor (temporary for six months) has been advertised and The closing date is next week. At present we have a supply janitor. A different management structure is being planned. At presents there are some issues with the pilot. The next stage will be in Strathspey. Both

GGS and Kingussie Head Janitors will be retiring in six months. There will be discussions on the next stage in November. Our new Science Technician, Derick Stirling, started last Monday.

## **5. Parent Council organization**

Mrs Carson was pleased to see such a good turn-out at the meeting. She said Mr McCook and Mrs Tucker would be hard acts to follow but the size of the jobs can be what we make them. One person must be recognized as Chair, so there is a point of contact for external bodies such as the HMIs. Mr Liggat agreed the Chair of the Parent Council needs to be a figurehead who can delegate and Mrs Wharton said we need a Chairman's signature for banking. Mrs Pilkington pointed out that it all sounds quite daunting and asked what Policy and Planning is. Mrs Carson explained the history. The old School Board looked at any policies, such as the School Improvement Plan, before any decisions were made. The Policy and Planning Group took on this role. The School Association became the Fundraising Group. The new Parent Council was faced with lots of issues such as the building and changing school roll. The format was less formal. The Communication Group was formed to improve two-way communications. We cannot change much because we are a registered charity with a Constitution. Mrs Strang asked if the three groups exist separately. They have recently come together because few people turned up to the group meetings. Previously the groups met separately and then came together at the end of the meeting. There are usually two meetings a term, depending on the need. The Parent Council has a big role in appointments of senior staff.

Mr Baker said he would be willing to take on the role of Chair if he had the support of others. Mrs Muir suggested it might be best for someone with children further down the school to take on the responsibility. Mrs Amphlett also suggested that whatever structure we have now, the roles can be juggled so no one person is in the post for a long time. Mrs Forsyth said they had hoped to do that at Deshar Primary, but it didn't happen that way. She added she would be happy to take on as active a role as possible. Mrs Pilkington was also happy to support. Mr Liggat asked how much Planning and Policy work there would be. Mrs Carson replied it only needs to happen during the meetings and added it might consist of OSCR issues, external documents internal school improvement plans. Over the past year there haven't been so many issues concerning the Highland Council. Mr Baker said that if he took on the role of Chair, he would like a Vice Chair for more flexibility at meetings and other support. Mrs Forsyth said the Fundraising role can be more challenging. At this point, Mrs Muir paid tribute to all the work the present S6 pupils had done this year. They recently raised £2200 for a cancer charity. It was agreed that pupil involvement is valuable to the Fundraising Group and that

they should have a role in Fundraising ideas. Alex McLure suggested the School Captains could attend the Fundraising Group meetings.

Mrs Pilkington proposed Andy Liggat as Vice Chair (Communications). Mrs McAuly-Brand seconded the motion. Mr Liggat agreed to take the post.

It was suggested that Mrs Buxton be a named signatory for banking purposes. Mrs Buxton is the paid Clerk of the Parent Council. Mrs Carson suggested she email Moira McCarrell to ask if this is possible.

Mr Bremner felt there were too few people to form smaller sub-groups, but suggested focused meetings could be chaired by different Vice Chairs. Mrs Amphlett suggested every fundraising idea go through S6 pupils. Alex said he had been unaware of the Parent Council and the work it does and felt other pupils were the same. Mrs Carson suggested he writes a newsletter about the group.

Mrs McAuly Brand proposed Sally Pilkington as Vice Chair (Fundraising). Mrs Forsyth seconded the motion. Mrs Pilkington agreed to take the post.

Mrs Pilkington proposed Ene-Karmen Forsyth as Vice Chair (Policy & Planning). Mrs McAuly Brand seconded the motion. Mrs Forsyth agreed to take the post.

Mrs Amphlett proposed Giles Baker as Chair of Policy & Planning. Mrs McAuly Brand seconded the motion. Mr Baker agreed to take the post.

At this point the meeting turned to item 8 of the agenda as Mrs Thom would have to leave before the end of the meeting.

## **6. ICT update**

Mrs Carson explained Mr McCrow had had a huge task of organizing the ICT to be distributed in the refresh. It seemed to be finalized but during the October holidays, at a meeting with Fujitsu, the school was told we were £24,000 over budget. This was because the school had received incorrect information with regards to netbooks being refreshed. As a consequence, Mr McCrow had to re-plan. There are 77 computers that can be added to the network at a cost to the Highland Council. This is possible because the school has proved we were using the machines. While these computers will not be refreshed, they will be upgraded and software added. They will not be replaced when they break down.

The Applemac in the music department will now be allowed on the

network. Many of the machines will be netbooks. Netbook trolleys are as expensive as laptop trolleys, despite the size difference. If the Parent Council would support additional pcs to the network it would be necessary to hold back a further £2/3000.

The refresh process has been changed from the 7<sup>th</sup> November to the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Our technician is away that week! Mrs Carson commented that, while Fujitsu had received some bad press, the technicians working with the school had been tremendous. We are looking forward to receiving the new computers. The Graphics Department pcs are enhanced and will not be included in the PCs to be refreshed. We are looking into the possibility of a wireless network for the school and a public network for the Craig McLean Leisure Centre.

### **7. Computers available to charity – discussion**

Fujitsu is making computers available to charity. Highland charities will have the first call. Mrs Carson said the Parent Council could write to Fujitsu to ask for some of the computers coming from Highland Schools be used to support pupils who don't have computers at home. Pupils could apply to the Parent Council for one. Mrs McAuly Brand asked if pupils would have to return the computers when they leave school but Mrs Carson said the life span of the computers would be relatively short. The application process can be dealt with through the school. Mr Liggat agreed to write a letter to Fujitsu.

### **8. BASMA minibus appeal**

Mrs Thom had attended the BASMA meeting about the minibuses. There are two, used by forty groups in the community. The better minibus is based in Grantown and is used mostly by the Grammar school and the shinty club. The other minibus is based in Kingussie, but will need to be replaced at some point. If this minibus breaks down before enough money is raised for a new one, the Grantown minibus will have to be re-located to Aviemore. £30,000 is needed. The Kingussie High School Parent Council has made a donation to the cause and Mrs Thom asked if the GGS Parent Council would consider the same. This was agreed. The amount would be considered later in the meeting. Raffle tickets are also on sale, with some excellent prizes. Mrs Thom asked people to take a book to sell. A race night is also being planned.

At this point the meeting returned to item 6 on the agenda.

### **9. Any other business**

It was agreed that Mrs Carson would donate £250 from the school fund if the Parent Council could raise £500 for the BASMA minibus appeal. Possible fundraising could be proceeds from the disco and a Non-Uniform day. This could be the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Alex said there is to

be a sponsored silence a week on Friday.

Mrs Muir asked if there would be any money available to provide a treat for S6 pupils. Mrs Carson said the Prom profits can go towards an event for them at the end of the school year. It was suggested that the Parent Council make a donation for the Prom but Mrs Carson expressed concern that this might take away the feeling of success that S6 pupils have when they have organized it all themselves. However, it was acknowledged that the focus of S6 in the first term had not been on the Prom and that they were now left with less time than normal to get organized.

There will be a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chairs at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011, to discuss the way forward.

There will be a meeting of the Fundraising Group at 7pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011, followed by a meeting at 8pm of the Policy & Planning Group.

Mrs Buxton closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Grantown Grammar Parent Council is a Scottish Registered Charity  
Registration No. SC041297