

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.00pm on Tuesday 29th November 2011.

Part A: Fundraising Group, including Treasurer's report, at 7pm

Present

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| Mrs Cath Buxton | Clerk |
| Mrs Sally Pilkington | Vice Chair, Fundraising |
| Mr Andy Liggat | Vice Chair, Communications |
| Mr Alex McLure | School Captain, Revack |
| Mrs Zoe Cooke | |
| Cllr Jaci Douglas | |
| Mrs Elaine Cullen | |
| Mr Jamie Trinder | School Captain, Roy |
| Miss Alexandra MacLeod | School Captain, Revoan |
| Mr Robert Brown | |
| Mr Giles Baker | Chair, Policy & Planning |
| Mrs Irene Carson | Headteacher |
| Mrs Liz Amphlett | |
| Mrs Tracy Wharton | Treasurer |
| Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth | Vice Chair, Policy & Planning |

2. Apologies

Mrs Debbie Strang
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand
Mr Chris Bremner
Miss Kendal Delaney
Mrs Claire Thom
Mrs Helen McLure
Mrs Hayley Muir

3. Treasurer's report

Mrs Wharton went over the report. She explained that the Tuck Shop at the discos has not been making a profit and suggested prices should be reviewed. Free water is provided. At the moment everything is on sale or return. We have found previously that if we buy in bulk storage is a problem. Mrs Cooke said she has storage space at home, if needed. Money is made on disco tickets but it was agreed we should also make a profit from the Tuck shop. Mrs Pilkington could buy the stock from Inverness. Given the short timescale it was agreed the Tuck shop at the disco on the 19th would be organised in the usual way. All the prices will be renewed for the Valentine disco, date to be decided soon.

Mini-bus donation: Money has been saved from the departmental bids and this can go towards the mini-bus donation of £800. Mrs Buxton to

ask Mrs Thom to forward the contact address to Mrs Wharton.

4. Fundraising Goals

Mrs Pilkington asked Mrs Carson if the school has any goals for which the Parent Council could raise funds. Mrs Carson explained we usually ask departments for bids towards the end of the school year. There will be a computer refresh before the Christmas holidays and it is likely we will need ICT provision such as headphones, speakers and software. The Pupil Council can be asked to suggest things. Mrs Cooke suggested provision of a new bike shed. Mr Baker suggested there might be additional funding for this purpose. Mrs Carson agreed that there is funding to encourage people to cycle to school/work. We could look into this. Mrs Pilkington asked the School Captains to consult the Pupil Council. She would like to attend a Pupil Council meeting to discuss this with them.

5. Fundraising opportunity school concert: ideas and delegation

Mrs Pilkington asked about the possibility of doing hampers to raffle at the school show. Mrs Carson explained that the show itself is a good fundraiser. It was agreed that, on this occasion, we won't do a raffle. It is possible S6 pupils will be doing one for their prom. Previous meetings had suggested one big raffle every other year, alternating with the Sponsored Walk. We will think about asking local businesses for prizes.

6. Fundraising ideas for the future: feedback from Pupil Council

School Captains to plan a Monday when Mrs Pilkington can meet the Pupil Council.

7. AOCB

Lucky Numbers Draw:

October: 1st – Mrs Cairns, 2nd – Mrs Forsyth, 3rd – Mrs Jones

November: 1st – Mrs Cruikshank, 2nd – Mrs McLaren, 3rd – Mrs Trinder

Mrs Wharton suggested sending another letter promoting the Lucky Numbers draw.

Mrs Forsyth suggested trying a Silent Auction

It was agreed that the Treasurer's Report would remain in the Fundraising part of the meeting.

Part B: Briefing on OSCR statement re trustees at 8pm (for all of Parent Council)

Mr Baker explained the terms trustees and members. Since the meeting in January 2009 every parent is welcome to the meetings. Mr Rainy Brown advised us that we would have to restrict the voting to trustees. Our five office bearers are member trustees at present but there is no limit to the number we can have. Five trustees need to be present at a meeting in order to make a decision. At the next meeting, Mr Baker will ask who would like to be a member trustee. Names will be recorded and they will then be entitled to vote. At the meeting the number of trustees we would like to have will be debated. It was noted that all trustees must be members: parents of present pupils. OSCR has said the change can take immediate effect and they can then be informed. The next meeting will be a General Meeting looking at the appointment of trustees and number in the quorum. Mrs Carson said that in Fundraising meetings proposals are made then taken to the Policy & Planning meeting for a final decision. Mr Baker will invite Mr Rainy Brown to discuss the matter. If anyone thinks of additional points for the Constitution they should let Mr Baker know.

Part C: Main meeting (Policy & Planning)

1. Welcome

Mr Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As in Fundraising meeting

3. Minutes of last meeting

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

4. Appointment of bank account signatories

Mrs Buxton had asked Moira McCarrell whether she could be a bank Signatory. Although she is Clerk to the Parent Council, she can be a signatory if this is agreed. This will be put onto the agenda of the next meeting. The Constitution will have to be altered accordingly.

5. Appointment of representatives to Craig McLean Leisure Centre Committee

There are two places on the committee for Parent Council reps. There are three or four meetings per year. Mr Liggat and Mrs Pilkington agreed to be nominal reps until someone else comes forward and an

appeal will be highlighted in the newsletter for someone who would be willing to attend the meetings and feed back to the Parent Council.

6. School Transport

From January 3rd 2012 there will be a new Stagecoach timetable. It looks like an improvement. This has been approved by the Highland Council. The buses are a public service. Councillor Douglas will enquire about the Child Protection issue which was raised i.e. public sharing triple seats with pupils (there have been recent complaints). Mr Baker will also write to Stagecoach and the Highland Council suggesting CCTV be installed on the buses. There is a difficulty with bus monitors as visibility across the bus is very difficult. Senior pupils cannot see everything that is going on without leaving their seats. It would help if senior pupils were spread out in the bus. Pupil behaviour has improved significantly but, despite the safety issues, many pupils still do not wear their seat belts. Highland Council has a simulator which illustrates the consequences, in a crash, of not wearing a seat belt. This simulator should be available to visit schools but Highland Constabulary were reluctant when this was requested earlier in the year. Councillor Douglas will try to find out more. Councillor Douglas said some bus-stops are cold and have no glass. The Nethy bus is often late. Both these issues are being looked into. Mr Baker pointed out that buses will be earlier in the new timetable, scheduled to arrive at school by 8.40am

7. Winter weather arrangements

A letter to Headteachers, from the Director, addresses staff safety in addition to pupil safety. A large percentage of GGS staff do not live locally. Mrs Carson asked whether parents would prefer to know that the school would be closed due to bad weather the night before, or on the morning. There is a possibility of opening later in the morning so the decision does not have to be made until conditions are more apparent. The majority did not think a later decision would be helpful and most would like to know the night before.

8. Call for Evidence Rural Schools document

Mr Baker proposes to circulate the documents for comments and then make any necessary amendments before sending. This was agreed.

9. Headteacher's report

Postponed until the next meeting when it will be earlier in the agenda. Mrs Carson reminded everyone that the school would be closed tomorrow, due to the strike.

10. Matters arising from previous minutes (not already covered)

There were no matters arising

11. Any other business

Mr Liggat requested items for the newsletter.

He informed everyone that the Improvement Plan and Standard & Quality documents are now on the Parent Council website.

Mr Baker thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be held in the school on Tuesday 31st January 2012. Fundraising 7 – 8pm, Policy & Planning 8pm onwards.