

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30th August 2011.

1. Welcome

Mr McCook welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the session. He went on to pay tribute to Rona Milne who sadly passed away on the 17th August after a short battle with cancer. Rona had worked at the school for twenty one years and had also been clerk to the School Board, before it changed to the Parent Council. Memorial services were held at Cromdale Church and in school. Mrs Carson said it had been a very difficult time for staff - the Highland Council had been very supportive in allowing the partial closure of the school, enabling many of the staff and the School Captains to attend the service. S6 pupils Anna Mulford and Rebecca Amphlett played music during the ceremony. An optional school service was attended by over a hundred pupils and tributes were read out by House and School Captains. Mrs Amphlett added that from a parent's point of view it was fantastic the school closed for the memorial service. She felt it was appropriate and showed respect. Everyone agreed with this and Mr Baker suggested writing a letter of appreciation to Hugh Fraser thanking him for the decision.

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	
Mr Robert Brown	
Miss Kendal Delaney	
Cllr Jaci Douglas	
Mrs Heather Tucker	
Ms Dawn Horsburgh	Active Schools Coordinator

2. Apologies

Mrs Claire Thom
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth
Mr Malcolm Smith
Mr Andy Smith
Mrs Susan McLaren
Mrs Morag Dunbar

3. Minutes of last meeting

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

4. Matters arising

Departments have been told of their funding request successes, which are much appreciated.

The school roll is 423 at the moment, due to pupils moving away or being accepted into college, jobs or apprenticeships.

School ties arrived last Wednesday and there has been a huge uptake in purchases.

Mrs Carson apologized, she had forgotten to mention the charitable status in the school notes – this had coincided with the diagnosis of Rona's illness.

5. Young Persons Fund

Mr McCook introduced Dawn Horsburgh, the Active Schools Coordinator. The programme, which is funded by a lottery grant, is at the end of its four years and Ms Horsburgh explained the benefits reaped by the young people who had taken part. Participation in the scheme has lead to greater confidence, sport specific awards and, in many cases, employment. Mr McCook said the older pupils had really enjoyed coaching younger children and he hoped there would be further opportunities in the future. Presentations are to be made for the last group participating in the programme and an article would follow in the Strathy. Mr McCook thanked Ms Horsburgh.

6. AGM

The AGM will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 20th September 2011. It will be advertised in the Strathy and via school bag mail. Mrs Tucker will provide refreshments. The Curriculum Architecture meeting, which was postponed, could now take place after the AGM.

7. Headteacher's report

- Staffing Update

Mrs Carson will be interviewing for Technicians tomorrow. There are some strong applications. Chris Riley, the Assistant Janitor has moved back down South. This is a big loss for the school. Chris gave a month's notice in the summer holidays but Mrs Carson does not know when his job will be advertised. She has been assured it will be top priority. There will be a huge impact on the school if there is no one in the post by the October holidays. The Head Janitor, Jimmy Ross, will be on holiday for one week. Workmen may need access to the school at this time.

The ground floor windows have been replaced, although some bits are not yet finished. It is not clear when this will be done. The first and second floors have yet to be done. These were expected to be changed during the summer holidays and all the computers were disconnected by Fujitsu at a cost per computer. The Reprographics room window is now frosted glass, which wasn't specified. There is to be a fire exit in the staffroom but a radiator has to be moved for this. The swimming pool windows have been removed from the contract. Mr McCook asked Councillor Douglas to find out why this is. The Parent Council needs a full explanation of the situation. Six weeks are thought to be needed to do the windows in the top two floors. The company has been told to do the work in the present financial year. The school needs a plan from the company showing how they can work safely on the windows while the pupils are in school. Mrs Muir suggested the Parent Council writes a letter for more information on the situation. Councillor Douglas will try and find out more and will report back.

- Curriculum Architecture

The meeting was postponed but will be on the agenda at the AGM

- Draft School Improvement Plan

Mrs Carson explained the new format. The Authority's priorities are in the left-hand column. The school's priorities must reflect these. The draft is being discussed at the Principal Teachers' meeting. Mrs Carson invited Parent Council members to let her know if they felt any amendments were needed. It was agreed the new format is an improvement on the last - more concise.

Mrs Carson explained the exam results. The STACs analysis will take a while to come. Meanwhile it is expected that some pupils will have successful appeals. These results should come through before the STACs analysis, which will then be revised.

There is no update on ICT. Mr McCook asked Councillor Douglas to give a resume on where the Council stands with this. Councillor Douglas said there are still a lot of issues and it is unclear whether the timescale will be met by November. However, the Council can take action if it is not. Mrs Carson also explained the school is one of five schools with an extension to continue our own print service. In the new system the cost of print is massive. There is a five year contract and it is into the second year. Mrs Carson and Mr Smith are on the ICT Provision Group.

8. Treasurer's report

Mrs Wharton distributed copies of the Treasurer's report and explained it. She stressed that money collected at discos should be counted and

two people should fill in the form and sign it to confirm the amount has been checked. Miss Delaney volunteered to take charge of this. The ticket money should be counted separately and Mrs Wharton will collect this. Mr McCook agreed to sign the OSCR report off at the AGM, before he leaves his role of Chairman. Mrs Wharton will email Mrs Carson for details of how many children are in each year. This will allow her to gauge how much food and drink to order for discos. Mrs Carson suggested putting Lucky Number letters in trays belonging to new members of staff.

9. Fundraising Group report

Mrs Tucker will send an email out appealing for helpers at the Welcome disco, next Thursday, 8th September. She suggested a Parental helpers request can be sent out with a letter after the AGM. Mrs Tucker will pass a copy of the template to her successor at the AGM. Mrs McAuly-Brand requested the next newsletter includes important dates.

10. Communications Group report

There was no report on this occasion.

11. Any other business

There was no other business. Mr McCook closed the meeting at 8.50pm.