

Minutes of the Parent Council meetings held in the Grantown Grammar School staffroom at 7.00pm on Tuesday 31st January 2012.

Part A: Fundraising Group, including Treasurer's report

Present

Mrs Cath Buxton	Clerk
Mrs Sally Pilkington	Vice Chair, Fundraising
Mrs Catherine McAuly-Brand	
Mr Giles Baker	Chair, Parent Council
Mrs Irene Carson	Headteacher
Mrs Anne Sullivan	
Mrs Tracy Wharton	Treasurer
Mrs Ene-Karmen Forsyth	Vice Chair, Policy & Planning
Mrs Jo Cairns	
Miss Laura Taylor	

Guest: Mr John Rainy Brown, VABS

2. Apologies

Mrs Claire Thom	
Mr Andy Liggat	Vice Chair, Communications
Mr Alex McLure	School Captain, Revack
Mrs Elaine Cullen	
Mr Jamie Trinder	School Captain, Roy
Mr Dugal McCrow	

Mr Baker explained that the Fundraising sub-committee will comprise all members of the Parent Council who wish to attend. This sub-committee will be empowered to incur expenditure in fundraising events without having to consult the Parent Council. Mr Rainy Brown asked how the amount should be limited. This will be discussed in the main part of the meeting. The fundraising meetings will be open to staff and pupils for decisions on methods of raising funds and how to spend the money.

Mrs Wharton will be resigning as Treasurer due to work commitments. She distributed a copy of the accounts and explained them. Mrs Wharton also read out a letter of thanks, received from the Rotary Club, for the donation we sent to the BASMA minibus appeal.

Mr Baker and Mrs Forsyth are now signatories on the bank account.

Lucky Number Draw Winners:

December 2011:	First	Lisa Gunn
	Second	Kendal Delaney
	Third	Jo Cairns
January 2012:	First	Irene Carson

Second Helen McLure
Third Catherine Talbot-Heigh

The Valentine Disco is planned for Thursday 1st March 2012. Jo Cairns will ask the S6 pupils in charge this time to contact Mrs Pilkington.

Mrs Pilkington would like the pupils to contribute ideas for fundraising. The Pupil Council can discuss this. Mrs Carson said it would be helpful to reflect on what we need. Mrs Sullivan suggested more outdoor seating. Mrs Pilkington will explore the possibilities of grants and awards. There are various people who could be approached for help, including Jean-Anne Goodbrand of Moray Council, John Rainy Brown, VABS, Jeannie Graham, Highland Council.

The Fundraising meeting finished early and the subject of lockers was discussed. Mr Baker asked if statistics can be available for the next meeting, such as how many pupils would like a locker, how many are already in use. The Pupil Council will discuss.

Joining the meeting at this point

Mrs Zoe Cooke
Mrs Hayley Muir
Mrs Debbie Strang
Cllr Jaci Douglas
Mr Robert Brown
Mrs Liz Amphlett

Discussion of parental involvement in school inspection

Mrs Carson said the School Inspection would take place in the week beginning the 27th February. Letters would be distributed to all parents and some families would receive questionnaires. The HMIs will meet parent groups on Tuesday morning and the Chair of the Parent Council, Monday afternoon. Parents can request to be involved by indicating on the form. HMIs will be looking at how well pupils learn and how well the school supports them. They will need a lot of information in advance of their visit.

There have been problems with access to Youtube since the computer refresh, due to the impact on servers. Some subjects, such as music, need access and this is being looked into. Mrs Carson recently had a phone call from BP, who had seen the BP related video by a third year chemistry group. BP requested to use the video alongside their educational videos and have sent some resources to the school.

Part B: General Meeting

Mr Baker explained the background to the proposals to be discussed. At GGS all parents are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings but we have to go through the formality of recording, with OSCR, the member-trustees.

1. To approve the co-option of Councillor Jaci Douglas as a Member-Trustee until May

Mrs Pilkington proposed and Mrs Forsyth seconded. Councillor Douglas was duly co-opted as a Member-Trustee until May.

2. Appointment of additional Member-Trustees who will have a vote at Parent Council meetings

Mrs Pilkington proposed the following parents become Member – Trustees: Mrs Amphlett, Mrs Strang, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs McAuly-Brand, Mrs Cooke. This was seconded by Mrs Wharton. There are now eleven member trustees.

3. Consideration of Clauses 33 and 34 of the Constitution:

33 No business shall be dealt with unless a quorum is present. The quorum for meetings of the council shall be **five**.

34 If at any time the number of council members **in office** falls below the number fixed for a quorum, the remaining members may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or for calling a general meeting.

a Whether to substitute another word for 'five'

It was decided not to substitute another word for 'five'.

b For clarity whether to substitute 'present' for 'in office'

All agreed to substitute 'present' for 'in office'.

4. Consideration of clause 46 of the constitution

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the council with such banks and/or building societies as the council shall from time to time decide. The Council shall authorise in writing four members (one of whom shall be the treasurer) to sign cheques on behalf of the council. All cheques must be signed by not less than two of the four authorised signatories.

a Whether to substitute the words 'four persons who will comprise the treasurer, and three other people specified by the Council who shall be drawn from the members and the clerk' for 'four members (one of whom shall be the treasurer)'

Following a discussion it was decided the proposed amendment will not be made.

Part C: Policy and Planning

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

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

2. Ratification of Powers and Attendees for a Fundraising Sub Committee

There were six Trustee-members who expressed a willingness to be members of the Fundraising Sub Committee. These were Mrs Pilkington (who will chair the Fundraising Sub-Committee meetings) Mr Baker, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Forsyth, Mrs Wharton and Mrs McAuly-Brand. Limited powers can be delegated to the sub-committee to invite any parents/pupils to attend the meetings. Voting rights would extend to these people. The Fundraising sub-committee would be allowed a budget of up to £500. Mrs Strang proposed and Mrs McAuly-Brand seconded the motion. No one was against so this was passed.

Although parents attending meetings cannot vote, unless they are a Trustee member, they can contribute to the discussions and respond to a request for a show of hands to gain the opinion of those present.

3. Pupil Council information – Laura Taylor

Miss Taylor explained that Highland Youth voice reps had been chosen. The Pupil Council reps had met once and were due to meet again on Monday. S2 pupils were doing a project in Making Connections classes to look into Government power. On the 7th February they will make presentations to Mrs Carson and the School Captains in order to choose the best model for GGS Pupil Council. S5 pupil, Alan Mackintosh has set up a website, linked to the school website, listing class reps and with a message facility. S5 pupils have also improved the school website. The Parent Council has a link on the front page.

4. Lockers: Update from School Council

This item was discussed following the Fundraising meeting.

5. Headteacher's Report

Mrs Carson explained the staffing changes to cover Mrs Thom in her absence.

The 0.7 post for Physics and Maths is going through staffing.

Mrs McLaren has stepped in to the technician post until it is filled.

Richard McWhirter is teaching music in place of Lauren Tait. Miss Delaney is also teaching some music.

Janitor, Frank Anderson started his post last week. Jimmy Ross has agreed to stay on until next Easter. Mrs Carson has been involved in a janitorial review, which is now restricted to Primary schools only. The job descriptions will be changing to Facilities Management and the higher graded post will be based in the Secondary schools.

Mrs Carson distributed statistics to explain future projections of staffing.

The Curriculum Group will be meeting on Thursday 7th February at 7pm. In June they will be looking at pulling together S1/2. Some staff are looking at the Young Philanthropist Initiative. Teams from within the school would research local charities and needs. The winning presentation would win £3,000. Residential opportunities are also being considered.

Mr Baker asked people to let him know if they would be willing to take part in a Senior Management interview panel.

6. Communications Group Report

Mr Liggat was unable to attend the meeting. At this point, Mr Baker asked if anyone would consider being Treasurer. Mrs Wharton would be willing to chat about the role. A plea for a Treasurer will be put in the newsletter.

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

School Transport: There is to be CCTV on buses. Mrs Carson has been assured by the transport group that double decker buses are as safe as single deckers.

Councillor Douglas said Driving Ambitions is coming to Grantown. This includes a simulator. The law says if seatbelts are fitted they must be worn. Any issues should be reported to the Public Transport Officer. Overcrowding on buses is also against the law. Councillor Douglas will check the issues of a member of public sitting next to a child on the bus. This would not be allowed in school if the person was not disclosed.

8. AOB

Spelling on Young Scot cards: Grammer rather than Grammar. Mrs Carson to follow this up.

**N.B. Date of next meeting has been changed to Tuesday 15th May 2012.
Fundraising meeting 7pm, main meeting 8pm**