

The Gordon Schools Parent Council

Thursday 29 August 2013

The Library, The Gordon Schools

MINUTE

PRESENT: Fiona Alderson, Chair, Tracy Buckley, Lynne Driver, Catriona Duncan, Alisanne Ennis, Pat Emslie, Councillor Sheena Lonchay, Hazel McIntosh, Annabelle McLeod, Pupil Representative, Sybilla McLeod, Carol Mearns, Minute Taker, Lee Menzies, Depute Rector, Uschi Mitchell, Elaine Rough, Treasurer, Pauline Stephen, Head of Service, Maria Walker, Director of Education, Dorothy Young, Stewart Chalmers, Alexander Hall, Rector

APOLOGIES: Tracy Brook, Councillor Moira Ingleby, Councillor Joanna Stratheed

Fiona welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made round the table.

1. Guest Speaker - Maria Walker, Director of Education

Fiona advised that questions, put forward by parents, had been collated and provided in advance of the meeting to Mrs Walker, Director of Education. The questions submitted are all generic to Aberdeenshire Council and questions which are specific to The Gordon Schools will be asked at a later date. Mrs Walker and Dr Stephen answered the submitted questions in succession. After further questioning and discussion Mrs Walker and Dr Stephen left the meeting. A record of the questions and answers will be circulated to Parent Council members.

2. Welcome and Apologies

At this stage in the meeting, apologies (as listed above) were accepted.

3. Pupils Contribution

Annabelle reported that pupils are now wearing the new school dress code and are looking really smart. Annabelle said that in her opinion it was much better and pupils are enjoying wearing it. She also stated that the Senior Management Team and teaching staff should be encouraging pupils to keep up the standard.

Miss Menzies advised the group that a referral process is in place and spot checks are also being carried out. Large posters will be put up in classrooms and around the school reminding the pupils of the new dress code.

Alisanne and Fiona said the feedback received to date has been really positive.

4. Minutes of the last meeting, action sheet and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved on the proposal of Uschi Mitchell and seconded by Alisanne Ennis.

Action Sheet/Matters Arising

Lottery 100/200 Club

All members agreed that this item should be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Alisanne to update the Parent Council at the November meeting.

ACTION A.E.

PTU issues re bendy buses

Fiona advised that this issue is now with Marjorie Temperley, Parental Involvement Officer, who will arrange a public meeting for parents, community groups, councillors, PTU and Stagecoach representatives. It is hoped that the public meeting can be arranged for before the October holidays. Fiona will liaise with Marjorie on this and feedback to the PC.

ACTION F.A.

Parent Council Citizenship Award

Fiona circulated information on the Parent Council Citizenship Award to members. She also advised that she had attended a meeting with Mrs Mary Anderson, Depute Rector, to finalise details of the award.

As agreed at the meeting PC meeting in May 2013, the Citizenship Award prizes will consist of It was a £25 donation to the charity or a non-profit making organisation of the Award winners choice; a Shield, which will be retained in school; and a jade glass trophy, which will be retained by the pupils.

Costs are:

Shield - £50 + engraving

Trophy – 2 trophies, one for S1-3 and one for S4-6, engraved at £44 per year or an option of buying for the next 5 years at a cost of in the region of £220.

All members agreed that buying for the next 5 years would be the best option and Fiona will go ahead and order the Awards via Watts, Jewellers, Huntly.

ACTION F.A.

5. Accounts/Treasurers Report

Elaine congratulated all who were involved in organising and helping at the Parent Council Coffee Morning. A total of £952.80 was raised.

The question of whether a check had been submitted to the school for the Easter Revision C course was raised. Carol agreed to find out the cost and advise members.

ACTION C.M.

School Fundraising – Thanks were also given to those involved in the organising of the duck race, which was a great success, raising £1,248 for school funds.

6. Rectors Report - to follow

7. Steering Group Information*

Fundraising Group update

Refer to item 5 of the minute

Communications Group update

The group is happy to advise that they have a new parent member - Lara Bestwick who will also be helping out with the PC pages of the website.

CfE update

There was nothing new to report. The next meeting of the Aberdeenshire group will be held in October.

8. A.O.B.

Prefects

Miss Menzies reported to members that applications for the post of Prefect had been received and successful pupils will be advised in due course.

Discussion took place around the role and remit of both the Prefects and the House Captains. The PC was advised (from the pupils perspective) that pupils were confused what the role of Prefect entailed and that they (the pupils) thought that staff could use Prefects more around the school.

The PC was advised that, although there was at present no formal written criteria or role and remit for House Captains or Prefects, this was being looked at as part of the performance plan for next year and that from 2014 a new selection process and set of criteria for the positions would be in place.

9. Future Meeting Dates

Due to some Parent Council members being unable to attend meetings held on Thursdays, it was proposed that future meeting dates be rotated between Monday and Thursday. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that this was an excellent idea future meeting dates will be set this way.

10. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th November at 7pm in the School Library.

For information - at the PC AGM in September meeting dates for the the next year were agreed as follows: -

- Wednesday 20th November 2013
- Tuesday 28th January 2014
- Monday 10th March 2014
- Thursday 24th April 2014
- Wednesday 28th May 2014
- Tuesday 26th August 2014

*For information, membership of the steering groups is as follows:

Communications - Uschi Mitchell / Alisanne Ennis / Fiona Alderson / Lara Bestwick
Curriculum for Excellence - Stewart Chalmers / Uschi Mitchell / Sybille MacLeod
Fund-raising - Lynne Driver is PC representative on this group
175th Anniversary Celebration - Alisanne Ennis / Fiona Alderson

All of the steering groups work really hard for the PC and the Parent Forum and they would all welcome new members. If you would like to help out by joining one of the groups please let us know – your help or assistance would be greatly appreciated.