

THE GORDON SCHOOLS PARENT COUNCIL

THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2013

THE LIBRARY, THE GORDON SCHOOLS

MINUTE

PRESENT: Fiona Alderson, Chair, Mary Anderson, Depute Rector,
Tracy Buckley, Lynne Driver, Catriona Duncan, Carol Mearns, Clerk
Lee Menzies, Acting Rector, Uschi Mitchell, Carol Small,
Dorothy Young, Claudia Zieske, Stewart Chalmers

APOLOGIES: Laura Bestwick, Tracy Brook, Jordie Cole, Pupil Representative,
Pat Emslie, Carol Grant, Depute Rector, Coucillor Ingleby,
Councillor Lonchay, Annabelle McLeod, Pupil Representative,
Sybille McLeod, Councillor Strathdee

Introductions were made round the table.

Mary Anderson explained that two representatives from the Pupil Council had been asked to attend the meeting. The two interested pupils are Annabelle McLeod and Jordie Cole. Unfortunately, due to pending exams, both were unable to attend the meeting on this occasion.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Fiona welcomed all to the meeting and accepted apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

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

3. Accounts/Treasurers Report

Fiona, Uschi and Lynne will be signatories on cheques for the Parent Council. They all agreed to go in to The Royal Bank of Scotland in Huntly with three forms of identification.

ACTION FA, UM, LD

Appointment of Treasurer and Vice-Chair

Members were asked for nominations for a Treasurer and Vice-Chair. Ushi Mitchell was proposed for the role of Vice-Chair by Alisanne Ennis and seconded by Dorothy Young.

There were no nominations from within the group for the role of Treasurer. It was agreed to promote this on the website and facebook asking for a volunteer to carry out this role, additionally Lee has agreed to include this request in the next school newsletter.

ACTION UM; LM

4. Rectors Report

To follow

5. ***Pupils Contribution***

There was no pupil contribution at this meeting.

6. ***Sub-Group Reports***

Fund-Raising Group

Dorothy reported that there has been no date arranged for the next school fund-raising group meeting.

- The Rag Bag collection is still ongoing
- Suggestion was made for a Quiz Night possibly before the end of April.
- Duck Race – Dorothy will speak to Sybille **ACTION DY**
- Come as you please days at the end of each term; High 5 and Coffee Morning on 22 June are still ongoing
- Lottery – 100/200 Club it was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting **ACTION AE**

It was also agreed that more help was needed on the fund-raising group to assist at fund raising events. This will also be put on the website and facebook inviting any interested parties to get in contact either via the school or via the PC.

Communications Group Report

Alisanne and Uschi are now the only two members on the group. Uschi stated that the school website was not as good as it could be and that the information on the website was inconsistent. It was noted that last year Zander had agreed to arrange a meeting with the Communications Group and Colin Fleetham, CSN Support Services Co-Ordinator. Lee agreed to take this forward in Zander's absence.

ACTION LM, AE,UM

Uschi thought that it was important that people are able to put "faces to names" for members of the Parent Council. It was agreed that a group photograph will be taken at the next meeting for putting on to the Parent Council website. **ACTION ALL**

Curriculum for Excellence Group Report

Stewart reported that he had attended the Senior Phase Working Group meeting at Inverurie Academy on 24 January. A copy of Stewart's report was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Stewart is now looking for questions and comments which he can take forward to the next meeting which is being held in March. Parents are being asked on the website to message questions on facebook.

ACTION UM

Work Experience

Question was raised as to whether Clare Hancy, PT Guidance would be able to attend a future Parent Council meeting to outline how work experience is set up at

the school Clare has responsibility for organising work experience placements at The Gordon Schools. Lee will look into this further.

7. **Parents/Carers Questions**

- a) **Parental Involvement within the school** – The school dress code group is due to meet on Monday 4 February at 1.15 pm. The aim of the meeting is to discuss school uniform/dress code. The meeting will be chaired by Mrs Janet Rennie. Lee invited members of the Parent Council to attend. Alisanne, Dorothy, and Carol Small agreed to attend on behalf of the group. Lee also reported that a survey will be sent out to parents in the near future asking for their views.
- b) **Styrofoam plates and plastic cutlery** – The school has no control over plates etc as all ordering is done through procurement. The issue of recycling bins has been raised.
- c) **Eco School** – The Eco School committee has disbanded and is now under the remit of the Citizenship group. The PC were asked if anyone would like to attend these meetings and Lynne Driver agreed to act as the PC representative.
- d) **Use of seatbelts on school buses** – The importance of wearing seatbelts is a regular topic at year group assemblies. The senior management team go on tobuses and instruct pupils to fasten seatbelts. Senior pupils attend the Safe Drive, Stay Alive campaign every year.
- e) **Self-Evaluation** – Self-evaluation is taking place in school all the time. Lee is working on a Standards and Quality report at the moment. A parental and pupil questionnaire will be distributed shortly.

8. **A.O.B.**

Music Competition

Fiona noted that a concern had been raised that the PC had changed the rules of the music competition. The Parent Council have never discussed the rule regarding the Music Competition and have quite categorically never changed any such rules. Any discussion around the Music Competition has simply been around funding for prizes. All members agreed that this was correct.

It was agreed that as in previous years the Parent Council would donate £90.00 for prizes for the Music Competition Dorothy will donate the Adjudicators gift.

ACTION DY

Insch School buses (bendy buses)

Dorothy expressed concerns regarding Stagecoach buses, in particular the buses which operate through the Glens and Kennethmont. She advised that parents in Insch strongly object to bendy buses being used on these routes. There have been occasions when these buses have mounted the pavement. Lee stated that the senior management team are aware of these issues and suggested that the Parent Council write a letter to the PTU outlining these concerns. Lee and Dorothy will forward a list of concerns to Fiona who will write to the PTU on behalf of the PC.

ACTION DY, LM, FA

School Anniversary

Lee advised that the school will be 175 years old in 2014 and would ask that this be added to a future Agenda for the PC.

Cuthred Shepherd

A request for financial assistance was received from Cuthred Shepherd, a sixth year pupil at the school. Cuthred has been shortlisted as a finalist in the National Science and Engineering Competition – The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair 2013 in London. Cuthred is looking for funding to help cover the cost of his trip. Members agreed to donate £100 to Cuthred. Fiona asked if Cuthred would attend a future meeting to report back to the Parent Council on his experience. Mary Anderson agreed to ask Cuthred to attend a future PC meeting. **ACTION MA**

Parent Council Trophy

Members agreed that the Parent Council would donate a non-academic prize. Suggestions raised were that there could be a senior and junior prize for Citizenship e.g. making a positive contribution to the community and ethos of the school. It was decided to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting when a decision regarding the criteria of the prize can be decided. As per the last meeting members of the PC were asked to consider suggestions for a prize. It was also agreed that this should be opened up to the Parent Forum and a request for ideas will be added to the PC pages of the website, to face-book and included in the next edition of the school newsletter. A decision on the nature of the prize will be made at the next PC meeting. **ACTION FA, UM, LM**

9. *Future Meeting Dates:*

Thursday 7th March 2013 - As the Music Competition is on the 28 February it was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to 7 March at 7pm in the school library.

Thursday 25 April 2013 – 7pm in School Library

Thursday 23 May 2013 – 7pm in School Library

Thursday 29 August 2013 – 7pm in School Library