

The Gordon Schools Parent Council

Thursday 7 March 2013

The Library, The Gordon Schools

MINUTE

PRESENT: Fiona Alderson, Alisanne Ennis, Chair, Councillor Ingleby Carol Mearns, Clerk, Lee Menzies, Acting Rector, Uschi Mitchell, Annabelle McLeod, Pupil Representative, Stewart Chalmers, Jordie Cole, Pupil Representative, Stewart McLauchlan, Acting Depute Rector

APOLOGIES: Tracy Brook, Pat Emslie, Dorothy Young

Introductions were made round the table

1. Welcome and Apologies

Fiona welcomed all to the meeting and accepted apologies. The PC noted that Dorothy's father passed away this week and all present extended their sympathies to Dorothy and her family.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

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

3. Accounts/Treasurers Report

There was nothing to report

Appointment of Treasurer

Alisanne reported that she had been able to obtain a Treasurer for the Parent Council. Mrs Elaine Rough has agreed to take on this post. Alisanne asked if Carol could pass on Ken's e mail address to her so that Elaine can make contact with him. Fiona asked Alisanne to thank Elaine for agreeing to take on this post.

ACTION CM

4. Pupils Contribution

Jordie and Annabelle outlined issues around the school which had been discussed at Pupil Council meetings

- Request for flat screen television in milk bar area
- Request for drinks vendor at P.E. area
- More tables in Library. Extension to Library opening times
- Heating required in History base
- Mould in boys toilets – this has been removed
- Complaint regarding showers in P.E.

Jordie and Annabelle advised that there is a Pupil Council notice board in the bus park corridor. It was agreed that it might be a good idea to put a suggestion box next to the notice board for pupils to put any ideas in to for collection by the Pupil Council. Jordie and Annabelle suggested that a member of the PC could attend a future meeting of the Pupil Council and the PC and advised that they would discuss this with the Pupil Council and would get in touch with the Parent Council should this be agreed.

Fiona thanked Jordie and Annabell for their contribution and the PC agreed that having members of the Pupil Council at the meeting gave the Parent Council the opportunity to hear about school life from the pupil's perspective.

5 .Easter Revision

Lee informed the group that information on Easter Revision has been issued to staff this week and returns from staff are due back tomorrow. Information will then be handed out to pupils with a form to take home to parents for signature. Double period slots will be allocated to each subject. Pupils will register in each class. Parents will be contacted if pupils do not turn up. It has been decided that Easter Revision will take place on Tuesday 2 April and Wednesday 3 April.

Lee advised that the school would be looking for funding from the Parent Council for the Easter Revision. Members agreed to that the Parent Council should contribute £2000 to the school to cover the costs for the Easter Revision which has been the same in previous years

6. Travel Expenses – meetings attended on behalf of TGS PC

Discussion took place around travel expenses for PC members attending seminars and meetings outwith TGS. It is thought that the PC covered these costs in the past and all present agreed that travel expenses should be covered when PC reps attend meetings elsewhere in Aberdeenshire on behalf of TGS PC.

Alisanne agreed to find out the inland revenue rates for travel expenses for casual users.

ACTION AE

7. YP Initiative (to nominate PC representative to judging panel)

Lee advised that the finals for the YP Initiative would take place at TGS on the evening of 16th April and that she was putting together a judging panel for the evening. Lee has approached the business community and would like a member of the PC to sit on the panel – the PC member should not be the parent or carer of a young person in S3, the year group who are participating in the competition. Alisanne offered to sit on the panel and this was unanimously agreed by those present. Fiona thanked Alisanne for volunteering for this.

8. Parental Involvement Report

Uschi had circulated a report prior to the meeting and a copy is attached to the minute.

Discussion took place around the report and it was agreed that the PC would work with the school on the areas identified by Uschi on the last page of the report. Fiona thanked Uschi for her hard work in putting together a very informative and worthwhile report. Uschi will continue to represent the PC on Aberdeenshire Council's Parental Involvement Group.

9. Rectors Report

Staffing

Current advertised posts in Chemistry, English, Modern Languages (2 posts – 1.00 fte and 0.8 fte) Interviews took place this week for a post in Modern Studies, for immediate start. Unfortunately no appointment was made. This post will be readvertised.

School Improvements

- Purchase of flat screen TV for S6 social area in the Milk Bar
- Various departments have new blinds
- Front car park has been re-tarred and lined
- Six additional smart boards have been bought and will be installed across the school

Raising Attainment

- S4 Mentoring
- Lunchtime catch up sessions across most subject areas
- Easter Revision
- Tightening up of senior revision and study period use

Wider Achievements***Sporting***

Nordic Skiing – Five pupils were in Austria/Germany competing in the British Championships achieving great success

Cricket – Kirstie Gordon has just returned from Dubai where she was representing Scotland in U19 cricket

NASSA Cross Country – The Gordon Schools won the Overall Boys, Overall Girls, 3rd Year Girls, 2nd Year boys, S5/6 Boys

Hockey – Alford, Aboyne, Inverurie and The Gordon Schools – senior girls won, junior girls came second

Rugby – Various rugby successes have been achieved. Both the U15s and U18s teams won. They now qualify for the national 7s on Saturday 23 March.

15 aside team are heading for Murrayfield next week to play in the Scottish Cup

Other Achievements

Writing – Laura Brook was runner-up in the ‘Unsolved’ crime writing competition launched last October as part of Aberdeenshire’s Crime and Mystery Festival

Music Competition

Junior Winner – Iona Fyfe, 2nd Flossie Roberts, 3rd Rebecca Henderson
Senior Winner – Cait Lennox, 2nd Ciara Ennis, 3rd Iona Gatenby

Thanks to the Parent Council for funding the prizes

Comedy Night of Drama – S4 Standard Grade Pupils

This was a very well attended event

BBC School Report

This will take place next week

Alec Bus

Will visit school next week for S1/2 pupils. Parental sessions are being developed for later on in the year

Former Pupil Awarded Scholarship

Alan Anderson, former pupil has been awarded an engineering scholarship by the Wood Group. Alan is studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Robert Gordon University. The scholarship includes mentoring from Wood Group staff, provision of an industrial project, a paid summer placement and £10,000.

Assemblies

Fair Trade Group – did a fantastic job

National Poetry Day – led by S2 pupil – Kyle Michie
School Environment – led by Dave Crawford, Janitor
Road Safety – Visiting Speakers

Cuthred Shepherd

Cuthred is on his way to London to attend the National Science and Engineering Competition.
Cuthred has been shortlisted as a finalist at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair.
A decision was made to invite Cuthred to the next Parent Council meeting to relate his experience to the Parent Council.

ACTION LM

10 Sub Group Reports

Fund-Raising Group

Lee reported that the Parent Council Quiz will take place on 21 March. Flyers will go out to parents in the next week or so. Help will be required with scorers and markers. Raffle prizes will also be required.

The school will be taking part in Comic Relief Red Nose day however Lee reported that this would be a low key affair.

Dress down day will also be held on the last day of term where pupils will pay £1.00 to 'Come to school as you please'

Duck Race - Sybille to look into this.

ACTION SM

Communications Group

Transport issues (carried forward from previous meeting) – in Dorothy's absence it was agreed to carry this forward until the next meeting.

Joint meeting between Colin Fleetham and Communications subgroup still to be arranged - due to staff shortages there has been a problem identifying a suitable date however it is hoped that this can be resolved in the near future.

ACTION LM

C for E Report

Stewart reported that things had gone quiet but there was another meeting scheduled in two weeks time. Stewart will update following this meeting.

ACTION SC

11 AOB (including Parents and Carers Questions)

Parent Council Trophy

All members agreed that the prize should be for good citizenship and that there should be a Junior and Senior prize. One prize for S1-3 and S4-6. There will a clear criteria set out for these prizes by the Parent Council. Fiona will prepare a draft for comment and will arrange to have this sent round the PC. Any suggestions or changes to the draft to be passed to Fiona prior to the next meeting.

ACTION FA / ALL

May meeting -

All agreed that it would be good to use this as part of the transition process and to invite parents of pupils in P7 to attend. PC members to consider the content of meeting and suggestions to be discussed at April PC meeting.

ACTION ALL

12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 25 April 2013 at 7pm in the School Library