

The Gordon Schools Parent Council

Thursday 24 April 2014

The Library, The Gordon Schools

***Minute***

**PRESENT:** Fiona Alderson, Chair, Catriona Duncan, Hazel McIntosh, Sybille McLeod, Carol Mearns, Minute Taker, Uschi Mitchell, Stewart Chalmers, Colin Fleetham, CSN Support Co-Ordinator, Zander Hall, Rector

**APOLOGIES:** Lara Bestwick, Tracy Buckley, Lynne Driver, Alisanne Ennis, Councillor Lonchay, Eleonar McGowan, Elaine Rough, Treasurer, Carol Small, Ruth Taylor

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

**2. Minutes of Meeting on 10 March and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved in the proposal of Uschi Mitchell and seconded by Sybille McLeod

**Matters Arising**

Relaxation Classes

Unfortunately the relaxation classes were unable to take place. It was suggested that there may be an opportunity for this to take place next year

Rrrally Youth Drive – 4 May 2014

There are still some spaces left for the above event which takes place on 4 May at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford

PTU issues re buses

It was decided to e mail the response from the PTU to Parent Council members. A follow up meeting was suggested.

Huntly Community Council

It was agreed that Hazel McIntosh would be the “voice” for the Parent Council on the Community Council. Hazel agreed to pass on Parent Council minutes

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade

Fiona reported that the parade was a resounding success. She extended a vote of thanks to all involved.

### **3. Pupil Report**

There was no pupil representation at the meeting

### **4. Treasurer’s Report**

Elaine Rough, Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, in her absence Fiona advised members that there was a balance of £7715.64 in the bank account.

These funds are all ear marked for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations

### **5. Rector’s Report**

S4/5/6 begin their exam diet next week. Study leave will run until Monday 02 June inclusive. New timetable starts on Tuesday 03 June. It is very clear that a lot of work has taken place in class and at additional study sessions to support our youngsters with their final preparations to sit exams. This year’s Easter Revision Course was a great success with well over 100 pupils able to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to further their preparations. All in school wish all exam candidates every success in the coming weeks.

On the staffing front:

Dr Penny Hopwood has joined the mathematics department – replacing Ann Sutherland who retired at the Easter Break. We also welcome Kirsteen Shepherd, teacher of SFL and Noreen Jennison, Pupil Support Assistant. All are very enthusiastic about joining the staff team at The Gordon Schools and we wish them every success here. Congratulations go to Mr Stuart McLauchlan, our PT Business Education, ICT & Enterprise, on his appointment to Depute Head Teacher at Keith Grammar School. Mr McLauchlan starts at his ‘old’ school at timetable change. The recruitment process to replace Stuart is already underway.

As you all know our 175yr Parade was a resounding success and I must again thank all who helped make it such a great day for the school and the community. Particular thanks to Fiona and Alisanne and their small band of helpers who did so much to coordinate arrangements for the day. A dinner to launch the 175 year book will be held on Saturday 28 June.

Holiday and in-service pattern 2014/15

2 occasional days to be allocated. Usual

Friday 13 Feb 2015                      Feb weekend

Monday 01 Jun 2015                      Local Holiday

## **6.        Colin Fleetham, CSN Support Co-Ordinator**

Mr Fleetham, CSN Support Services Co-Ordinator, spoke about his role in the school. As part of the Senior Management Team he has responsibility for all non-teaching functions. The non-teaching staff groups include the janitorial team, technical team and the administrative team. Mr Fleetham supports the other members of the Management Team with finance, health and safety and property matters across the school.

## **7. 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

Alisanne was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that this item be put on agenda for the next meeting.

## **8.    Sub-Group updates/discussion**

- Curriculum for Excellence

The issues raised by the group were covered in the Rector' s Report

- Communications – ideas for improvement

Concern was raised regarding the school website being very complicated. Parent Council information part of the website is difficult to access. Members of the Parent Council speak to parents and not all parents have access to the internet.

Suggestion was made as to whether a new Parent Council website could be set up separate from the school one. The Rector and Mr Fleetham advised that this would not be an issue. Mr Fleetham advised the group that Aberdeenshire Council now offer a service where they will create a website.

Question was raised as to the best way to communicate information to parents.

Fiona advised that the Parent Council would be willing to pay for the school to send out text messages on their behalf. Again the school would have no problem with this.

Fiona and Uschi raised concerns stating that parents find it difficult to talk to the school – in particular the Guidance staff. Fiona expressed concern that in any school information sent to parents, namely the school prospectus it states that if parents have any concerns the first point of contact should be their child's guidance teacher. This is in fact not the case as the first point of contact is a

member of the admin team. General discussion took place as to the best way to resolve this.

- Fund-raising

No discussion took place on this matter

#### **9. TGS PC Citizenship Award**

A meeting has been set up to review the nominations for the Citizenship Award.

#### **10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 7.00 pm in the School Library