

The Gordon Schools Parent Council

Monday 10 March 2014

The Library, The Gordon Schools

MINUTE

PRESENT – Fiona Alderson, Chair, Aliisanne Ennis, Councillor Sheena Lonchay, Carol Mearns, Minute Taker, Kathryn Merchant, Pupil, Uschi Mitchell, Eleanor McGowan, Pupil, Annabelle McLeod, Pupil, Sybille McLeod, Elaine Rough, Treasurer, Ruth Taylor, Ian Cruickshank, Pupil Alexander Hall, Rector

APOLOGIES - Lara Bestwick, Tracy Buckley, Lynne Driver, Catriona Duncan, Carol Fraser

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Fiona accepted apologies at this stage in the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting on 28 January and Matters Arising

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

Matters Arising

PTU Issues re Bendy Buses

Fiona advised that she is still waiting for a date for a further meeting regarding the above. Huntly Development Trust would like to be invited to the meeting when a date is set.

Relaxation Classes for Pupils

As discussed at November meeting the Parent Council agreed to fund payment for some relaxation classes for current S4 pupils to help with the stress around the new CfE exams. There is a possibility that S5/6 pupils could also be involved. Fiona requested that it be put on record as to what was actually agreed and minuted at the January meeting. This information is included below: -

- 1 workshop per year group lasting for 45 minutes, this could either be 1 x 4th year; 1 x 5th year; and 1 x 6th year
- or 1 x 4th year and 1 x 5th and 6th year combined (dependent on what was thought best) - and Zander suggested that the 45 minute PSE session could be used for this purpose.
- PLUS an Easter Revision session.

All members agreed that this was in fact what was discussed and agreed in January, and that the January minute accurately reflected this.

Fiona had previously forwarded this information to Networks of Wellbeing and agreed to do so again.

3. Networks of Wellbeing – S4 support

Maria Perkins had sent in her apologies and was unable to attend the meeting.

4. Auschwitz Visit

Annabelle McLeod and Kathryn Merchant, two senior pupils gave an excellent and moving presentation on their experiences following their visit to Auschwitz. Questions were asked by Parent Council members.

The impact of the visit was evident in the presentation and in the answers provided to questions asked. Fiona thanked both girls and said they were an absolute credit to the school.

5. Rrrally Youth Drive – Mrs Linda Harper

Rrrally Youth Drive is an organisation set up with conjunction with Road Wise Driver Training to promote road awareness for young people between 14 and 17 years of age. Rrrally Youth Drive will be held at the Grampian Transport Museum at Alford on

Sunday 4 May. Young people will have the experience in stress free surroundings with the aid and expert guidance of a qualified instructor. All youngsters will have the opportunity to drive a vehicle and become familiar with the control and performance. The event will also incorporate an interactive discussion on Driving Theory, information and hands on experience with vehicle maintenance and a demonstration drive in Alford and surrounding areas focusing on Hazard Awareness. The event is free to 14-17 year olds. Parents are welcome to come along and see their children take part in the event.

Mrs Harper asked if pupils could be encouraged to come along for this worthwhile event.

Fiona thanked Mrs Harper for coming to the meeting and at this stage Mrs Harper left.

6. Pupil Report

Ian and Eleanor reported that:

- Benches for outdoor use have been agreed. One bench is being made and one is being bought.
- Collection boxes have been purchased for pupils to put loose change in. One has been situated beside the main office and another is in the canteen. A charity for the collection will be decided at a later date.
- 6th year ties have arrived
- Soap dispensers have been fixed
- Springs on changing room doors at P.E. have been fixed

7. Treasurers Report

Elaine advised that a separate account has been opened at The Royal Bank of Scotland for the 175th Anniversary celebrations. Signatories will be the same as the Parent Council account. A fourth signatory is needed; Ruth Taylor agreed to do this. Approval is required from members for this separate account. This was proposed by Alisanne Ennis and seconded by Uschi Mitchell.

Elaine reported that expenses so far for the 175th Anniversary celebrations are in the region of £1200. £476 was raised from bag packing at Asda.

8. Rector's Report

The Rector's Report had been included with the papers sent out in advance of the meeting. Mr Hall was thanked for providing this and all present agreed that it would be good to have the Rector's report in advance for future meetings.

9. 175th Anniversary Update

A programme of activities has been put in place for these celebrations. Fiona Alderson, Alisanne Ennis and Fi Thompson along with a school committee are working hard on these. These include:

- Photography competition – all entries to be submitted by the end of April
- Art competitions – all entries to be submitted by the end of April
- School picture – Pat Emslie is liaising with Digital Croft to get this organised
- Parade around Huntly – celebrating the past and the future will take place on Saturday 29 March. Pre-Parade reception to which dignitaries will be invited - PC members and Senior Management attending the reception would be requested to act as Marshalls during the Parade. Fiona advised that this would not be an onerous task but one which was necessary given the predicted numbers participating in the Parade.
- Formal dinner to launch Alec Anderson's book
- Vintage evening is booked for 12 June in the Assembly Hall – hostesses, raffles etc. will be required
- Logo competition – open to all pupils. Entries to be submitted by 20 March
- Whisky label competition – open to staff. Entries to be submitted by 20 March
- Merchandising – being organised by Lee Menzies
- Huntly Herbs – a chutney will be labelled with 175 sticker which can be sold at a profit
- Dean's biscuits – donated 100 packets of shortbread which can be labelled with 175 sticker and can be sold at a profit
- Tap O' Noth Fudge
- Whisky – once the label has been agreed this can be labelled up
- School Anniversary Ceilidh for pupils – 11 September in the Assembly Hall – organised by Diane Harper
- Top of the Pops evening
- WW1 – owned by Val Ross – has got funding for putting together a demonstration board and presentation materials
- Revamp of school song
- 175th Quiz Night – Sybille McLeod and Ruth Taylor are going to organise this
- Fancy Dress Football Match
- WW1 exhibition - possibly in school hall in September. Being investigated by Kaye Simpson.

10. **Sub-group Updates**

Curriculum for Excellence Group

There was no update available, as Stewart was unable to attend the meeting

Communications Group

Uschi outlined her concerns regarding the school website. It needs someone to maintain it. The calendar part of the website needs to be updated. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. It was also suggested that Colin Fleetham, CSN Support Services Coordinator be invited along to the next meeting

Fundraising Group

Bag packing at Asda was successful. £476 was raised on the day. Quiz Night and a Bingo Night are also being suggested as Fundraising ideas

11. **Music Competition**

The Music Competition takes place on 20 March. All members agreed that, as in previous years, the Parent Council should fund the prizes for the competition.

12. **A.O.B.**

Citizenship Awards

Fiona reminded the group that the deadline for nominations for the awards is 31 March.

Letter from Mrs A Van Der Spoel, Teacher of Modern Studies

A letter was received from the Modern Studies Department requesting financial support of £175 to assist with transport costs for a trip to Edinburgh. All members agreed to fund the trip.

13. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24 April at 7 pm in the School Library.