

Grove Parent Council
Annual General Meeting minutes
11 September 2018, 19:00-19:30

Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Louise Abercrombie | 8. Clare Jefferson, Clerk |
| 2. Dawn Archibald, Chair | 9. Ewen Jenkin |
| 3. Johnathan Carrotte | 10. Julie Lynch |
| 4. Jim Cochrane | 11. Duncan McIntosh |
| 5. Cllr Craig Duncan | 12. Sela Mdlalose |
| 6. Graham Hutton | 13. Deepa Narayanan |
| 7. Ross Hutton | 14. Doreen Phillips |

1 Welcome and introductions

Dawn Archibald welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by a round of introductions.

2 Apologies

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Stephen Bain | 2. Fiona McLaughlin |
|-----------------|---------------------|

3 Approval of minutes of previous AGM

There were no changes to the minutes from the previous AGM held on 26 September 2017. The minutes from the previous AGM were adopted.

Proposed: Doreen Phillips

Seconded: Duncan McIntosh

4 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM.

5 Report of the Chairperson

Dawn Archibald, chair of the Grove Parent Council for 2017/2018, gave a report on the Parent Council. The Parent Council witnessed another excellent year at Grove Academy. The school had a great number of successes in music, drama and sports, and academic achievements of individual pupils. Dawn thanked a number of people that serve on the Parent Council including Clare, Doreen, Deepa and Stephen for their contributions. Dawn recognised the role of all staff at Grove Academy in supporting our children, as ably led by Rector Graham Hutton.

6 Report of the Rector

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, provided a report to the AGM (see annex 1). Graham thanked Dawn for chairing the Parent Council for the past two years. The 2017/2018 session has been a hectic year, despite the challenges faced by the lack of supply staff, staff vacancies, reduced budgets and reduced staffing. Grove received new funds from the Pupil Equity Fund. Grove also appointed a number of new support staff, although it is too soon to assess their impact. As a trend, there is a rise in mental health problems amongst pupils. Grove has renewed its efforts to enforce its Anti-Bullying Policy and to better support pupils facing bereavement and loss.

There is great rapport between staff and pupils. Staff are prepared to go the extra mile, to explore new opportunities and learning pathways. Graham identified a number of highlights for the 2017/18 as specified in his report (annex 1). Graham also mentioned the appointment of two new deputies in 2017/18 including: Mrs Barbour and Mrs Berry.

7 Report of the Treasurer

Stephen Bain has served as treasurer for the Grove Parent Council for 2017/2018. Stephen was unable to attend the meeting tonight. However he emailed that he was prepared to serve as the treasurer for another session, although he noted the role of treasurer was superfluous as the PC does not have a bank account or hold any funds directly. Furthermore, should the PC having a requirement to use any funds during the year, probably these would go through the school's ledger. Stephen also wrote that he was not convinced there is a need for a position of Treasurer.

8 Elections

The meeting elected new office bearers for the 2018/19 session as follows:

Chairperson: Louise Abercrombie

Proposed by Dawn Archibald and seconded by Deepa Narayanan

Vice chairperson: Doreen Phillips

Proposed by Clare Jefferson and seconded by Dawn Archibald

Treasurer: Stephen Bain

Proposed by Duncan McIntosh and seconded by Doreen Phillips

Clerk: Clare Jefferson

Proposed by Dawn Archibald and seconded by Julie Lynch

9 Any Other Current Business

9.1 Following the discussion around the role of the treasurer which is stipulated in the Grove Parent Council Constitution, it was suggested that consideration be given to a review of our Constitution (as adopted in January 2008).

10 Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM is Tuesday 10 September 2019.

Dawn closed the meeting and asked Louise as the incoming chairperson to open the follow-on Parent Council meeting.

Annex 1: Rector's Report to the Parent Council AGM

It has been a very hectic year and despite staff shortages, the lack of supply staff, trying to do more with less, we have struggled valiantly and with amazing success to ensure our young people's educational experiences and that the quality of Teaching and Learning at Grove Academy continue to be of the highest level.

The reduced staffing and budget has made this very difficult, and although we have an appropriate funding from the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund, it has nevertheless been very difficult to ensure that we stretch the budget as far as possible.

With regard to the Pupil Equity Fund, we aim to close some of the attainment gaps we have identified here at Grove. This extra money will allow us to focus on identified pupils - those from the most deprived areas, those on Free School Meals entitlement, those being looked after in care and also those who are Young Carers - as well as any other pupils who need specific support to attain better. Consequently, we have had the support of an additional Pupil Support Worker, a part-time Family Involvement Worker, a Numeracy teacher and a mental health worker. Some of these posts were not filled till late on in the school year, we have yet to see a real impact, but we have seen green shoots with an improvement in pupil attendance, access to the curriculum, numeracy and mental health issues. The rise in mental health issues amongst pupils of all stages is a real cause for concern, and something very dear to my heart. In the coming year we shall aim to improve the support to those pupils concerned and try to renew our efforts to ensure our anti-bullying policy works better and the harm caused there is healed. In addition, four staff have been trained so far in *Seasons for Growth*, designed to help and support pupils suffering from bereavement or loss, a barrier to learning which is often neglected or overlooked.

Recently the press has been filled with doom and gloom stories about Scottish Education - that is not what I see and hear and feel here at Grove Academy. I can honestly say that the quality of learning and teaching our young people receive here at Grove is infinitely better than what I experienced when I was at school! The methodology is better, the support for pupils is better, the feedback to pupils on next steps and how to improve their work, is far better. We have built an excellent staff team here at Grove- teaching and support staff, a team which just seems to get stronger and stronger. The range of Extra-Curricular activities is wider and more varied. The number of staff who are prepared to go that extra mile for our young people is greater than it ever was. There is a huge number of opportunities and the courses we offer are far more suited to the young people's needs and particularly over the last five years we have created learning pathways which lead almost every one of our young people to a positive destination after they leave us.

There have been so many further highlights this year where our pupils and staff have achieved great things - in fact, they are too numerous to mention individually:

- Advanced Engineering Course went to Seattle, USA to represent Scotland in the International MATE Challenge having won the Scottish final in Aberdeen. They won the No guts no Glory award.
- we won the S3 Harry McLeavy Modern Studies investigation challenge trophy once again.
- The Youth Philanthropy Initiative in S2.

- Trips to CERN in Switzerland, Berlin, Iceland and the Battlefields of Belgium. Our CWGC volunteers were honoured to be invited to the Anzac and Gallipoli day service at the Scottish National War memorial in Edinburgh Castle and Mr Anderson and three pupils represented Scotland at the Amiens Commemoration in Belgium in July.
- Fifteen S3 girls to the *Girls into Physics and Engineering Event* at St Andrews University.
- The John Byrne Drawing Competition and the Tesco Bank National Gallery Competition, as well S1-3 designing and creating our Grove Academy Maggie's Penguin.
- Amy Stevenson won a place to attend the youth conference on 'Digital Heritage' in Berlin, sponsored by the UK-German connection.
- 22 S2 pupils had the opportunity to complete the Skillforce programme including a challenging week's residential stay at Loch Eil centre in December.
- 6 S3 pupils took part in an 8 day leadership residential, again at Loch Eil, in the Easter holidays.
- North East Scotland Finals of the Stock Market Challenge with BNP Paribas Investment Bank.
- Our Young Enterprise Company 2018 - Flavours of the Ferry - won best presentation at the Tayside Finals.
- Agnijo Banerjee represented the UK at the Maths Olympiade in Rumania and came 7th in the world!
- In English, four of our pupils won awards in the District and National Rotary Young Writer Awards

In Sport

- Sofia Ramzan – who represented Team Scotland in Gymnastics at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018.
- Kirsty Turfus and Eoin Simpson were part of the Scottish Junior Water Polo team.
- Abbie Armstrong and Morgan Anderson were Scottish Schools Swimming Championship medallists.
- The S1/2 Basketball team is the Tayside and Fife Champions.
- Our S1 Football team achieved 3rd place at the National Finals of Soccer 7s. And once again our football teams completed a clean swipe of domestic trophies from S1-Senior!
- Christmas Concert and the performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Staffing:

Number of staffing changes which I have alluded to throughout the year. Main change has been the appointment of two new deputies. The Grove Team goes from strength to strength.

Overall a very successful year, including very good SQA results.