

**GROVE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL  
DRAFT MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT GROVE ACADEMY  
ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015**

**Members in Attendance**

- |                        |                        |                       |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Stephen Bain        | 10. Clare Jefferson    | 19. Fiona McIntosh    |
| 2. Karen Bennett       | 11. Carole Jenkins     | 20. Wendy Moncur      |
| 3. Alison Benns        | 12. Jonathan Kobine    | 21. Deepa Narayanan   |
| 4. Cllr Laurie Bidwell | 13. Clare Leslie       | 22. Doreen Phillips   |
| 5. Yvonne O'Brien      | 14. Penny Lewis, Chair | 23. Cllr Derek Scott  |
| 6. Alison Clark        | 15. Ana López          | 24. Jaqui Spence      |
| 7. Mo Cole             | 16. Julie Lynch        | 25. Hilary Waddington |
| 8. Susan Duncan        | 17. Tara Malik         |                       |
| 9. Graham Hutton       | 18. Alison Main        |                       |

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the chair, Penny Lewis. Everyone was welcomed.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

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|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Fiona Anderson | 5. Cllr Kevin Cordell | 9. Sally Hart      |
| 2. Dawn Archibald | 6. Cllr Ken Guild     | 10. Mary Holligan  |
| 3. Gillian Boland | 7. Andy Flack         | 11. Elaine King    |
| 4. Grant Buchanan | 8. John Hamilton      | 12. Karen O'Rourke |

**3. Minutes of Previous Parent Council Meeting**

There was brief feedback provided on the following items in the previous minutes:

3.1 Penny explained that in the previous email circulated with the minutes, some recipients were unable to open the attachments. In order to avoid this problem in future, the Parent Council will email all minutes in the pdf format.

3.2 Correction and accepting of the previous minutes: There were no corrections made to the previous minutes. These minutes from 8 September were adopted as presented.

**3.3 Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting**

3.3.1 WiFi has now been installed throughout Grove Academy. This was made possible through the combination of the school DSM budget and a grant from Local Community Planning Partnership to the value of £3500 to help install WiFi hubs for learning and teaching and the wider community group work.

**4. Maths teaching at Grove, Mrs Yvonne O'Brien**

Mrs Yvonne O'Brien, Principal Teacher on maths teaching, provided a comprehensive overview on maths teaching at Grove. Parents found this discussion extremely useful. It provided insights into the difference between different ability groups (identified as blue, white, 'amber' and yellow groups). She stressed that the maths department operate an open-door policy and any pupil requiring support is able to approach staff for help. Full details about the discussions are included in annex 1.

**5. Proposed 33-lesson week**

A vibrant discussion was held around the Dundee City Council proposal for a 33-period week for all secondary schools. Mr Hutton gave a presentation providing details on this proposal. The change in the structure of the week will not change the amount of contact time pupils have with teachers, which is currently set at 1650 minutes per week. However it will allow for uniform period lengths and an increase in the number of periods from 30 to 33 periods per week. These additional periods will be used to offer a number of new lessons such as drama, work experience, Duke of Edinburgh

support, as well as allowing pupils in fifth and sixth year to have full subject columns. Full details about the discussions are included in annex 2.

The parent council received 15 written submissions around the 33-period week proposal. Key details from these submissions were raised in the discussion, in addition to those raised by parents in the meeting. Written submissions were forwarded to Mr Hutton to be included in the Grove Academy submission to the Department of Education.

## **6. Friends of Grove**

Julie Lynch was recently elected as the chair of Friends of Grove. She provided an overview of the purpose of Friends of Grove, which is to undertake fund-raising in support of school activities. She shared the plans of what Friends of Grove planned to do with parents in the next year. This included: (i) supporting the school's Christmas and Eastern concerts through the provision of refreshments and possibly raffles at the event; (ii) exploring the provision of a student reward system with some additional prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements; (iii) further development of the school archives.

The current administrative priority of Friends of Grove is also to improve information sharing systems through the use of Facebook, the school website and email.

More immediately, Friends of Grove are looking for volunteers for pouring tea and coffee following the Christmas Concert. In addition to this, Friends of Grove are looking for donations of raffle prizes. Should anyone like to volunteer, or donate items, they can email Julie directly: [julieannelynch@gmail.com](mailto:julieannelynch@gmail.com). Refer to annex 3 for a copy of the leaflet prepared by Friends of Grove.

## **7. Report by Rector, Mr Graham Hutton**

7.1 Mr Hutton extended a word of thanks to Mrs O'Brien, the principal teacher of maths, for taking the time to attend the Parent Council meeting.

7.2 Japanese Exchange: The student exchange with Japan was very successful. The pupils involved were great Ambassadors for Grove Academy. The highlight of the trip was the numerous presentations to Japanese pupils on Scottish culture at the Fukiai International School in Kobe, Japan. These presentations were fantastic and the pupils were enthusiastic. These included discussions on the meaning and pronunciations of Scottish words, samples and descriptions of Scottish food and the wearing of kilts. A real credit to Grove Academy!

7.3 Mr Hutton attended a prize giving in Edinburgh at which six Scottish pupils, including our own Agnijo Banerjee (now S4), were awarded prizes for achieving 100% in their Advanced Higher in Maths. Awards were presented by Lady Susan Rice, CEO of Scottish Water.

7.4 Other achievements in the sports arena: The S1/S2 Girls' Netball Team are top of their league. S5/6 girl's netball won regional championship for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Huge congratulations to Calum Garden who represented Scotland and was captain of the U15 Scotland cricket team. Raymond Paterson represented Scotland in Trampoline, Michael King in Diving, Niamh Harper in sailing (both Scotland and UK). Keir Robb represented the UK squad for downhill skiing. Hamish Rice was selected for the Scotland U16 Hockey squad and Kerry Nicol is in the U18 Scottish Hockey squad.

7.5 The school has received the final attainment/results. Mr Hutton is currently reviewing these, and looking at how to provide additional support to boost future results.

7.6 Staffing: The school has appointed a new maths teacher. The school is in the process of short-listing applicants for interviews for the new Pupil Support worker.

7.7 There are a number of trips planned for pupils. These include: (i) a trip to view the Large Hadron Collider at Cern, Switzerland; (ii) the S3 History pupils are going to visit the first and second world war battle fields; (iii) the trip to Uganda in July.

7.8 There are a number of key dates to make a note of:

- Christmas Fayre, 5 December
- Christmas Music Concert, 17 December
- Parents evening are scheduled as follows: S5/6 pupils on 17 November; S1 pupils on 2 December, S2 pupils on 11 January; S3 pupils on 28 January and S4 pupils on 17 February.

7.9 The School Improvement Plan is in its final stage of production.

## **8. AOCB**

8.1 Meetings attended: On 17 October the Penny Lewis attended, on behalf of the Parent Council, a meeting with the Director of Education. The agenda of the meeting is attached as annex 4. The meeting focused mainly on the school estate.

8.2 Upcoming meetings organised by Dundee City Council:

- On 19 November the Parent Council need to send a representative to attend a meeting with Paul Clancy. We are looking for a volunteer to attend.
- On 26 January, there is a meeting with the Director of Education - any volunteers?
- On 1 March, there is a Parent Forum meeting open to all parents. We will remind you nearer the time.

The full list of all the meetings for the remainder of 2015/16 at which the Parent Council require a representative is attached as annex 5.

8.3 The Parent Council decided to join the Scottish Parent Teacher Council again. The annual fees are £40 to join.

8.4 The Parent Pay System is due to be launched in mid-November. This system will allow parents to pay for school items online. Parents will still have the option of using cash or cheques.

8.5 Stephen Bain, the treasurer to the Parent Council, reported back on our finances. He says that we are provided with £100 per annum by the Department of Education. Currently our funds stand at £157.

8.6 An updated report on the recent and planned events for the EcoClub was submitted to the Parent Council. Refer to annex 6 for a copy of the report.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is due to take place in the new academic year in the third week of January 2015. The date is confirmed for 19 January 2015 at 7pm.

### **List of Appendices**

Annex 1 Meeting discussion on maths teaching at Grove Academy

Annex 2 Meeting discussions on 33-period week

Annex 3 Friends of Grove hand-out

Annex 4 Agenda from meeting 17 October

Annex 5 Dates of meetings on Education

Annex 6 Sustainable Development Education Report (EcoClub), November 2015