

## Grove Parent Council Ordinary Meeting minutes

Virtual meeting, Tuesday 25 January 2021, 19:00 to 20:30

### Attendance

The following people were present at the meeting.

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Kulsam Ali              | 7. Tara Javed, Chairperson           |
| 2. Stephen Bain, Treasurer | 8. Clare Jefferson, Clerk            |
| 3. John Blicharski         | 9. Selu Mdlalose, Deputy Chairperson |
| 4. Elaine Dawson           | 10. Deepa Narayanan                  |
| 5. Jennifer Gallagher      | 11. Doreen Phillips                  |
| 6. Graham Hutton, Rector   | 12. Hannah Steel                     |

### Item 1 Welcome

Tara Javed, Chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone.

### Item 2 Apologies

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Clare Biggans | 4. George Gilvear           |
| 2. Jim Cochrane  | 5. Philip Scott, Councillor |
| 3. Karen French  |                             |

### Item 3 Approval of the previous minutes

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 23 November 2021 were adopted.

Proposed: Doreen Phillips

Seconded: Elaine Dawson

### Item 4 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

### Item 5 Correspondence/meetings attended

- Road safety:** Jim Cochrane emailed an update. He had correspondence with Wendy Cringle, secondary school representative on the Pupil Parking and Safety committee. She provided minutes from their meeting on 30 August. It showed where our safety concerns about the positioning of the bus stop and the nearby traffic island on Claypotts Road, as well as the use of the traffic island as a pedestrian refuge, are raised. This is an ongoing issue. The committee meet again on 16 February.
- Gluten Free:** Graham confirmed that Home Economics does provide gluten free option to pupils. Allergies / preferences are recorded in their notes. Young people can also raise it with the teacher.

### Item 6 Rector's Report, Graham Hutton

Graham Hutton delivered his report.

- Covid 19:** Covid mitigations are still in place at Grove. These include face coverings, hand sanitising, desk wiping, opening windows/doors for ventilation, LFTs and logging results. Usually, 50 masks are distributed daily which is small given a roll of 1344 pupils. The staggered breaks/lunches will continue; probably becoming a permanent feature. Graham says the staggered breaks/lunches has received good feedback in the 5-a-day discussions with pupils. Mask wearing will probably cease at half-term depending on the

guidance from Scottish government. With this impending change in the required mitigations, Grove are planning to have the final fling and celebration of achievement events in the summer term.

Upon return from the New Year holidays, there were 22 staff absences (17 teaching staff and 5 support staff). Currently there are two staff absent with covid. Pupils' absence across the school are at 13%. The absences are slightly high amongst the S6 pupils. Grove is going to encourage senior pupils to sit the exams as per their UCAS form, rather than allow them to drop subjects. This reinforces the value of perseverance.

- 2. SQA:** The Scottish Government are going to hold exams using the plan B option which means there will be some additional help offered to pupils. There are currently 3 exam options. Option A where the exams run with modification; Option B where there is more support such as pupils being told what the topic are; and Option C where there are no exams.

The Nat 5 assessment in December (1 week) and January (2 weeks) went well. There was good attendance. Currently there is a week study leave for senior pupils doing Highers/Advanced Highers. The estimate marks need to be submitted in April. The estimates will be robust and accurate. These will be used for any appeals if pupils do not attain what we think they should. Estimates are based on demonstrated attainment. There is a Study Support programme in place.

### **3. Achievements and Events since last meeting**

Graham provided a detailed review of the achievements and events since the previous meeting. These included the following:

- Celebrating Achievement Events: There were 3 ceremonies (new S2/3/4; new S5; new S6).
- Eco group collected 410kg (almost half a ton) for the foodbank.
- Every Grove Learner Matters (EDLM) included Virtual Reality Football and Kindred Clothing. Kindred Clothing project saw a gain in confidence, creativity, skills, friendship and fun amongst those who took part.
- Virtual music Concert
- Anne Frank Trust - remembering the Holocaust
- 5 young people went to London for the @AnneFrankTrust film screening – with the Duchess of Cornwall
- Debate Mate – Harry Leadingham and Natalie Kelly intend to travel to Dubai.
- S2 to S3 choices have been made and are being decided on.
- Agile Learning with Dr Simon Breakspear (NSW) – HT and 3 DHTs – team to improve school strategic planning

### **4. Staffing**

A summary of the current staffing was provided, as follows:

- Temp Teacher of Biology – readvertisement – no luck – supply and part timers in
- PSW – did not appoint - readvertised
- PT Guidance – advertised (JP Curran's post)
- NQT in Geography left – supply cover – replacement wrapped up in the annual staffing review
- Terry Masson – Arbroath – again Staffing review.

- DHT – Mr Creamer gone to Education Scotland – job advertised – leaving tomorrow (Tara Javed will represent parents)

Graham delivered a presentation entitled 'Excellence at Grove Academy' (7 Dec 2021) which summarised what each principal teacher felt was a wonderful 'happening' in their department. It demonstrated the innovative and sector leading work of the various departments at Grove Academy. This was part of the research where Grove was an OECD Case Study.

#### **Item 7 Constitution PC Working Group, Selu Mdlalose**

Selu provided an update on the documents circulated to members. In the discussion, two main issues were raised: strengthening the provisions for the Parent Council to undertake a fund-raising role and clarification on the role of a secretary as a parent versus a remunerated clerk that does not necessarily need to be a parent at Grove. The work of the Constitution PC Working Group is ongoing.

#### **Item 8 Any other current business**

1. **Call for invigilators:** John asked for an update on the call for invigilators put out on social media in December. Graham said there had been a delay in replying to applicant and he would follow up on the issue. A principal invigilator has been appointed. He explained that for some subjects such as N5 English there would be a requirement for 18 invigilators.

#### **Item 9 Items for the next meeting**

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Constitution PC Working Group

#### **Item 10 Dates of next meeting**

The next Parent Council meeting is on 29 March 2022 at 7pm. The dates for the last meetings for the 2021/22 session is on Tuesday 14 June 2022.

Tara closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.