

## **Grove Parent Council meeting minutes**

Grove Academy Staffroom, 7:20 pm to 8:45 pm, Tuesday 26 March 2019

### **Attendance**

- |                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Bain    | 7. Graham Hutton                  |
| 2. Jim Cochrane    | 8. Clare Jefferson, Clerk         |
| 3. Andy Creamer    | 9. Selu Mdlalose                  |
| 4. Lindsay Crosbie | 10. Deepa Narayanan               |
| 5. Marcelle Harper | 11. Doreen Phillips, Deputy Chair |
| 6. Elaine Hodge    |                                   |

### **Item 1 Welcome**

Doreen Phillips, the deputy chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Doreen chaired the meeting. Doreen noted that prior to this evening meeting we had a presentation by Anne Leary on the Cost of the School Day. Doreen thanked Anne for her presentation. All attendees had previously taken a round of introductions prior to the meeting.

### **Item 2 Apologies**

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Louise Abercrombie, Chair | 6. Natalie Mackland |
| 2. Dawn Archibald            | 7. Fiona McLaughlin |
| 3. Taletta Jamieson          | 8. Gary Torbet      |
| 4. Ewen Jenkin               |                     |
| 5. Duncan McIntosh           |                     |

### **Item 3 Approval of the previous minutes**

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 29 January 2019 were adopted without changes: proposed: Jim Cochrane; seconded: Selu Mdlalose.

### **Item 4 Matters arising from previous minutes**

The following issues were discussed as they arose from the previous minutes.

4.1 Clare obtained a list of all the community organisations invited to the Ferry Community Networking event.

4.2 Clare to email Natalie Mackland for a list of the dates of the upcoming Ferry Local Community Planning Partnership meetings so that the Parent Council can look at the availability of a parent representative.

### **Item 5 Correspondence/meeting attended**

#### **5a. Meetings attended**

1. HMIE Thematic Visit meeting on Thursday 7 February at 2pm for 50 minutes. Clare attended. This was a focus group discussion whereby parents and partners discussed the questions: How well are headteachers and schools empowered to design their local curriculum in line with the Curriculum for Excellence and in collaboration with the school community?
2. Secondary School Parent Council Chairs Meeting held on 12 Feb at 7pm. Louise attended. One of the issues discussed at this meeting was the change in the provision of pupil support posts. It is understood that these will reduce from 16 posts across Dundee to 8 posts. This presents a huge challenge to secondary schools.
3. Extended Review meeting on Tuesday 17 Feb at 17:30 for 60 minutes. This was a focus group discussion whereby parents discussed various aspects of Grove Academy. Clare, Stephen, Doreen, Deepa, Dawn and Louise attended, as well as

other parents from the Parent Forum. The first draft of the Extended Review Report will be made available to the SLT in two weeks. The Parent Council can see the report by the next Parent Council meeting.

#### 5b. Upcoming meetings

1. Tayside Parenting Strategy, The Quay, Dundee, Wed 27 Mar, 10am-1.30pm. Clare to attend.
2. Tayside Parenting Strategy, Harris Academy, Dundee, Thurs 18 April, 7-9pm. Doreen to attend.
3. Meeting with Executive Director, Paul Clancy, Wed 24 April 2019 7pm in Committee Room 1, City Square. Louise to attend.
4. Meeting on Wed 8 May at 6:30pm; venue tbc. Jim, the new Grove Academy Road Safety Ambassador, to attend.

#### 5c. Correspondence

1. School Road Safety Ambassadors needs to be elected. In response to the email from Lauren Nicol (21 Feb), Jim volunteered to be the Grove Academy Road Safety Ambassador. Jim will liaise directly to Taletta on this issue.
2. Lauren Nicol circulated an invite from the Tayside Parenting Strategy Working Group to attend the main session to discuss with parents how the information gathered in a survey on the Tayside Parenting Strategy will be used. The main event will be held in Dundee on Wed 27 March and 18 April. As previously noted, Clare and Doreen will attend these meetings respectively.
3. Grove Parent Council made the decision in the previous meeting to send a letter to Paul Clancy about the pitches at Dawson Park (13 Feb). In response to this, Paul Clancy sent a letter to GPC about the pitches (13 Feb). The Parent Council discussed the letter and held some discussion on possible future actions. Regretfully it does not seem there is anything further that can be done.
4. The Grove Parent Council received an email from Mary (Baldragon Academy Parent Council) asking for view on the reduction in family support workers across the secondary (14 Feb). To which Clare had already sent an email for any updated information.
5. The Grove Parent Council received an invite from Natalie Mackland to attend the Ferry Local Community Planning Partnership, in Broughty Ferry Library on Thursday 28th Feb at 5:30pm. No one attended from the PC.
6. Message from DHT Mark Doherty about Brooke Marshall Project Director of Feeling Strong wanting to speak to the PC. Clare sent a text to Brook.
7. Taletta sent a confidential Briefing Note regarding the Budget 2019/20 to the Chairperson (14 Feb). This was forwarded on to Louise.
8. Lauren Nicol circulated dates for the school terms 2021/22 and 2022/23 for consultation. No action was taken.
9. Invite from the Chairperson to attend the Dundee Schools' Spring Concerts - Tues 19 and Wed 20 March 2019. No action was taken. Although it was noted that Deepa did attend this concert.
10. The Grove Parent Council received an invite for a representative of the Parent Council to our final of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) at Grove Academy on Wednesday 24th of April at 2pm. Clare will attend, although both Deepa and Elaine expressed interest.
11. School parking and Pupil Safety Working Group Secondary School Rep – Wendy Cringle (14 Mar) looking for agenda items. It was suggested that Jim liaise with

Wendy on any issues arising in his capacity as Road Safety Ambassador. Clare mentioned that previously Wendy had advised that the 'Safer Routes To School' leaflet and the 'Travel Plans' leaflet that every school in Dundee needs to check over and updated. Marcella mentioned that she had a Travel Plans documents though her work with Sustrans (the charity that's making it easier for people to walk and cycle). She also advised that there is a new community police officer Ric Servitude in charge of the school catchment area and it might be useful for Jim to liaise with him on road safety.

12. The Appeals Committee needs to recruit new parent representatives. Taletta emailed to ask for nominations. Selu offered to serve on the Appeals Committee. Clare will send the forms to Selu to complete.

### **Item 6 Duke of Edinburgh**

Marcella spoke about the changes in the registration fees for the Duke of Edinburgh. This issue was discussed at the previous meeting. In recap, previously the Dundee City Council has paid a single annual fee to the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE) for the amount of £1000 for the participation of all secondary schools in Dundee. Now each individual secondary school enrolled in the DoE programme needs to pay an individual fee of £1000. To ease the transition to the new fee structure, Dundee City Council agreed to pay £500 for each school, and the school would have to find the remaining £500. Mr Hutton has paid this fee (on 1 April 2019). However from next year (2019/2020) each secondary school is responsible for the payment of the fee in its entirety. There was some discussion on how this fee could be covered. It was suggested that a working group looking at securing funding from former pupils be established. Selu, Lindsay and Stephen will form this working group to look at a way to engage with the former pupil network. Lindsay to follow-up with S3 parents on this DoE issue. In the interim, Clare will email the Friends of Grove to enquiry if they possibly have the fees for the next payment due on 1 April 2020 (£1,200)

### **Item 7 Report by Rector**

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, presented his report on staffing, achievements and events since January 2019.

#### **7.1 Staffing**

The maths post is filled by R. McGrath (currently NQT at Baldragon Academy).

#### **7.2 Achievements (since January 2019)**

Mr Hutton provided an overview of the key highlights since the previous Parent Council meeting.

- War Memorials – renovation – Building new installations next week, Rededication on 12 June
- Fourth Green Flag!!
- Skillforce Clans- presentations – Loch Eil Experience
- Dundee Active Schools Giant Heptathlon – winners
- Dance Show – very well presented and pupil led – organised and planned by senior Leadership Class
- Fashion Show – excellent evening with well organised entertainment
- Ceilidh – very enjoyable evening – made a great effort
- Sophie Kidd – Young Volunteer of the Year Winner – Hawkhill Harriers coach, Brae Riding of disabled on Saturday mornings, Athletics Sport Ambassador

- Colette McCourt – CWGC Internship –result of the Elective
- Jill Travena - Parental Engagement Evening - Resilience
- Qiaochu Zhang – RSA Schools Art Award – highly commended – exhibited in RSA in Edinburgh 9<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- S1 PCE – 76% turnout
- Fairtrade breakfast
- CERN Trip – very successful
- Ski Trip – Fantastic experience
- Hockey- Aspire Cup - Perth Schools 2- 1 GA
- Dundee Schools' Netball – S1/2 - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places, S3/4 – 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Lot of Socks day –for Downs syndrome
- Dundee Arts Festival – Concerts – lots of pupils involved
- Two Moons Literary festival – led by Michael Charlton, librarian
- Dundee Dance Festival – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Contemporary and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Open competitions.
- Thomas Kobine –winner of ESU Speakers' Corner Challenge and Tegan Smith – Finalist in ESU Public Speakers' competition.
- Prelims – issues – proposal for 2020
- HMIE Thematic Visit – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February – very positive messages
- Extended Review (19-22 March) – very positive

### **7.3 Future Events**

Mr Hutton provided an overview of the key future events.

- Burgess Award – Thursday
- Holidays
- NSPCC Talk for parents – Online Safety- 17 April
- S6 Leavers' ceremony –Tues 23 April
- S2 YPI final - 24 April
- Easter Concert – Wed 24 April
- S4-6 Study Leave – 30 April to 28 May
- P7 Induction Days – 12-14 June
- P7 Parents' Evening – Thursday 13 June

### **Item 8 Dates of next meeting**

The final meeting of the 2018/19 year is on Tues 28 May 2019. The date for the first meeting of the 2019/20 session is Tuesday 17 Sep 2019.