

## **Grove Parent Council meeting minutes**

Grove Academy Staffroom, 7:30 pm, Tuesday 29 January 2019

### **Attendance**

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Louise Abercrombie, Chair | 7. Graham Hutton                  |
| 2. Stephen Bain              | 8. Clare Jefferson, Clerk         |
| 3. Jim Cochrane              | 9. Fiona McLaughlin               |
| 4. Andy Creamer              | 10. Selu Mdlalose                 |
| 5. Lindsay Crosbie           | 11. Doreen Phillips, Deputy Chair |
| 6. Elaine Hodge              | 12. Gary Torbet                   |

### **Item 1 Welcome**

Doreen Phillips, deputy chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, opened the meeting and chaired until Louise Abercrombie, chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, arrived to commence the role of chair. All attendees took it in turns to introduce themselves.

### **Item 2 Apologies**

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ewen Jenkin    | 3. Taletta Jamieson |
| 2. Dawn Archibald | 4. Deepa Narayanan  |

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

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 13 November 2018 were adopted without changes: proposed: Stephen Bain; seconded: Gary Torbet. Clare mentioned that she will resume circulating the agenda and draft minutes prior to future meetings.

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

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

4.1 Graham confirmed the Head Teacher Charter is being finalised and should be complete by June 2019. It should come into force by the 2019/2020 session.

4.2 Grove Academy has not yet decided on how to spend the donation from Douglas Craig. There are a number of suggestions from the young people such as to extend the dining area or build an outside covered lunch area for pupils. Graham says that Grove intends to use the same model as the Dundee Decides initiative to let pupils decide on this issue.

4.3 There was a review of all the work undertaken by the Chaplaincy Team. Discussions included mention of the Christmas assemblies and the Fair Trade event as well as the upcoming Easter assemblies. The Chaplaincy team are looking to get involved in the transition activities for the pupils moving from P7 to S1.

4.4 The War Memorials have been moved to Edinburgh for repairs/refurbishment, after which they will be reinstalled within the school building. There will be a rededication ceremony to mark their unveiling.

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

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

1. Clare attended the Ferry Community Networking Event at the Broughty Library on 22 November as organised by the Broughty Ferry Local Community Planning Partnership. At the event she spoke with representatives from Grove Eco Club, Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association (YEAABA), Dundee East Community Sports Club (DECSC) and a representative from the Community Policing, Whitfield. Clare to request a list of the organisations that attended the event.

2. Louise attended the meeting with Danny Webster, Education Manager, on 29 November at 6.30pm at Sidlaw View Primary School. The meeting aimed to raise awareness amongst parents/carers of the changing curriculum in the Secondary Sector. Louise said the meeting looked at apprenticeships and education beyond academia. She said it was extremely informative and stressed that there are many different routes rather than just university. Gary commended the school on the work being done in broadening the curriculum. Andy distributed a booklet on Senior Phase: Progression Routes and Pathways 2019/20. This is also available online at: <http://grove.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk/our-school/documents/senior-course-choice-booklet-2019-2020/view>

### **5b. Upcoming meetings**

1. Louise will attend the secondary chairs meeting on 5 February which will look at trading standards and age restrictions.

2. Clare to inform Taletta Jamieson, Parental Involvement Officer, Children and Families Service that the date of the city-wide meeting clashes with the next Grove Parent Council meeting on 26 March. Doreen to attend the city-wide meeting on behalf of the Grove Parent Council. Doreen sends apologies to the next PC meeting. The date of the next Grove Parent Council meeting will remain unchanged.

3. Nearer the time, Clare will confirm with Louise and Doreen to see who will attend the meeting on 24 April with Paul Clancy.

### **5c. Correspondence**

1. The **School Parking and Pupil Safety Working Group Representative for Secondary Schools**, Wendy Cringle, sent an update from the most recent meeting (15 January 2019). The information relevant to Grove Parent Council was as follows: From a Secondary School point of view, discussions took place about the 'Safer Routes To School' leaflet and the 'Travel Plans' leaflet that every school in Dundee needs to check over and update. It seems that lots of schools have them but that they are out of date and the responsibility for updating them needs to be highlighted, possibly passed to the PTAs of each school to check over and update - the safety and well being of each child is a priority. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 March, 2019. Graham said that he would find the existing 'Safer Routes to School' leaflet for review.

2. **Pitches at Dawson Park.** Graham provided an update on the pitches at Dawson Park. Graham received an email from Paul Clancy informing Grove Academy that the decision had been taken to replace the pitches at Dawson Park with 2G instead of 3G pitches. Graham said he was bitterly disappointed in this decision especially given that these pitches are only suitable for hockey and cannot be used for football. The Parent Council received correspondence from Fergus Storrier (12 January 2019) providing details on the original proposal for the upgrade of the pitches to 3G and the development of improved changing facilities (pavilions). The Parent Council has been following this issue which has been discussed at almost every meeting since it was first raised as a possibility. The Parent Council will send a letter to Paul Clancy reiterating our disappointment in the decision about the 2G pitches especially since what is the best interest of the city, in this case is not in the best interest of the school.

3. The Parent Council chairperson signed the claim form transferring the stipend of £100 to Grove Academy to cover all administrative expenses to offset costs incurred. Taletta Jamieson will need to sign off on this before the funds are transferred to Grove.

## **Item 6 Cost of the School Day**

Grove Academy would like to invite Susan Epworth to speak to the Parent Council about the Cost of the School Day. Grove is following up with her on availability.

## **Item 7 Report by Rector**

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, presented his report on staffing, achievements and events since November 2018.

### **7.1 Staffing**

There are no changes in staffing since the last meeting. There is still a vacancy in Maths for which a justification for this position is in. We currently have a supply teacher in post and the post will be advertised shortly.

Budget situation is dire. There is probably going to be a short-fall in the local council budget which will be met by increasing the local council tax and by a cut in services. This will have a knock on effect at school.

### **7.2 Achievements and Events since November 2018**

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

- Walkthroughs. The chemistry department walkthrough is complete and there was a good report. There are walkthroughs due in the following four departments: Art and Design; Support for Learning; Music and Drama; Craft, Design and Technology.
- Inset days
- Christmas Fayre
- Dundee Science Centre and D&A College – Medical Detectives Workshop – keyhole surgery, cell staining, testing practicals
- Book Week Scotland – DIScQuiz winners
- ESU Scotland – GA Team First Place
- Young Enterprise (YES) Trade Fair
- Parents' Evenings S4 4 December, S5/6 10 December and S2 and S3 in January – great turn out at 70-80% and very positive feedback
- Parents Info Evening on Course Choice – very good feedback.
- Parents evenings – Caroline Concoran -The Teenage Brain. A similar event will be hosted in Internet Safety.
- Dundee Foodbank
- Santa Dash
- Big Sleep Over was held in the assembly hall to coincide with the nationwide sleep in the park event. £400 was raised.
- John Hand from Insight (National Achievement Statistics) provided commentary on our exam results at a meeting of Principal Teachers and SLT and gave pointers on how we can improve.
- Winter Ball for the S6 pupils.
- Berlin was very successful. Doreen extended her thanks to the school for arranging this and to the staff that accompanied the pupils.
- Music concerts at Grove Academy, at Discovery Point and the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow (lunchtime, 11 Dec)
- Careers Convention (16 Jan)

- Anne Leary undertook a Learning Walk whereby she spent a day following a S2 and S4 pupils through school. She was amazed at the quality of learning at Grove.
- YPI Charity fair was held amongst S2 pupils and the winning charity was awarded £3000.
- S6 Baccalaureate Presentations
- Skillforce Loch Eil Outward Bound (SAC)
- Girls Into Physics and Engineering (Heriot Watt)
- Josh Mulligan and Finlay Baird who represented the Scottish Schools Football Under 18
- Dundee Inter schools Squash Competition – winners - Christopher, Georgia, Katherine, Naomi & Glenn
- Rector's Q and A Session
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- MicrosoftEDU Visitors from US – Office 365 and GlowScot
- Education Scotland visit to Grove will focus on interdisciplinary learning especially the Advanced Engineering Programme which built the submersible vessel and look at the trip to Seattle.

### 7.3 Future Events

Mr Hutton provided an overview of the key future events.

- Attainment Adviser's visit (30 January)
- HMIE Thematic Visit – Thursday 7 February. This will focus on the empowerment of Grove to promote learning and teaching to drive the curriculum forward with both vocational and academic pursuits. Graham is preparing a scoping paper on this. The day will entail a number of discussion groups including the following: 8 pupils; 8 staff; 8 parents and partners including representatives from DFC, NCR, Dundee and Angus College; Apex hotel. There will be no individual report, but comments from Grove will be taken to a national report for John Swinney.
- Ceilidh
- Dance Show
- Fashion Show
- Attainment Review (25 Feb)
- Extended Review/Walkthrough by DCC (19-22 March)

### 7.4 Important Issues

1. **3D Pitch at Dawson.** This issue was discussed earlier in the meeting under item 5c.2 Correspondence.
2. **Peace Room.** The Chaplaincy room is now established as a prayer room. Although it is windowless, a small window will be inserted in the door. The room will also have prayer mats and furniture installed.
3. **Nurture.** A learning and teaching assistant will be appointed as well as the Nurture Teacher. This will also provide a site for pupils that require a soft start to the day and provide a sanctuary to go to. The aim is to bring pupils back into school.
4. **Maira Stewart Trust – ipads.** After three years, Grove has the green light to order 100 ipads which will be added to the existing stock of 70 ipads already in use. This will be possibly followed up by an initiative to refresh the 30 library desktop

computers. There were problems with the firewall which was preventing the installation of Apps, but this issue is now resolved. There was a similar issue which arose with Bring Your Own Device to school. Andy Creamer said there will probably be a launch event. Grove will also get Apple TVs to allow teacher to project ipad images to TVs. Selu asked about the training support. Andy said that a training package was part of the initial purchase agreement. XMA will do two training sessions. The impact of this will be positive for Grove.

5. **School Estate Plan and the impact on Grove.** Graham outlined the various proposals on School Estate Planning within Dundee City and Angus with regards to how it affects Grove Academy. There are possible plans afoot to change the catchments of schools to the west and east of Dundee city incorporating shared secondary school catchments between Dundee and Angus. Graham explained some of the proposals and reiterated that nothing is cast in stone. There is a possibility of a new secondary school being built on the western side of Dundee which will take the pressure off Harris Academy but also take in Angus pupils on the west from areas such as Invergowrie. Then on the eastern side of Dundee, a new school could be built which would replace/enlarge Monifieth High. Catchments would then be redrawn with pupils from Barnhill Primary School being co-zoned for Grove and Monifieth High. Similarly pupils from Craigiebarns Primary school could be zoned for the Grove Academy catchment; while Craigie High and Braeview Academy could merge into a new school on the site at old St Saviours school. The time scale for these plans are medium term (5 years plus).

#### **Item 8 Duke of Edinburgh**

Historically, the Dundee City Council has paid a single annual fee to the Duke of Edinburgh Award for the amount of £1000 for the participation of all secondary schools in Dundee. This would provide support for all the DoE expeditions. However, recently this fee structure has changed. Now each individual school enrolled in the programme needs to pay an individual fee of £1000. Thus across Dundee each high school would be responsible for the £1000 fee. Grove is affected by this and similar to other secondary schools had not budgeted for this. For this session, Dundee City Council agreed to pay £500 for each school, and the school would have to find the remaining £500. However from next year (2019/2020) the fee increases to £1200 and each secondary school would be responsible for the payment of their own fee in its entirety. There was some discussion on how this fee could be covered. Stephen suggested that the cost could be divided amongst the approximately 100 pupils enrolled in the DoE at Grove. Graham felt that this was not necessarily equitable and enabling to participation for students from poorer backgrounds. So Lindsay said that perhaps we could approach Former Pupils that participated in the DoE programme for donations. She will investigate proposals for this.

#### **Item 9 Any other current business**

9.1 Lindsay asked about community policing around Grove.

9.2 Gary mentioned that the next Local Learning Partnership meeting will look at identifying priorities for the Local Community Plan.

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

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 26 March 2019 at 7pm. The final meeting of the 2018/19 session is on 28 May 2019.