

## **Grove Parent Council Minutes**

Virtual meeting, Tuesday 8 June 2021, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

### **Attendance**

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Kulsam Ali         | 10. Graham Hutton, Rector             |
| 2. Stephen Bain       | 11. Tara Javed, Chairperson           |
| 3. Clare Biggans      | 12. Shady Botros                      |
| 4. John Blicharski    | 13. Clare Jefferson, Clerk            |
| 5. Elaine Dawson      | 14. Selu Mdlalose, Deputy Chairperson |
| 6. Andrew Fraser      | 15. Deepa Narayanan                   |
| 7. Karen French       | 16. Doreen Phillips                   |
| 8. Jennifer Gallagher | 17. Danny Steel                       |
| 9. Elaine Hodge       | 18. Hannah Steel                      |

### **Item 1 Welcome**

1. Tara Javed, Chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the 2020/21 session.

### **Item 2 Apologies**

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jim Cochrane             | 4. Fiona McLaughlin         |
| 2. Craig Duncan, Councillor | 5. Derek Scott, Councillor  |
| 3. George Gilvear           | 6. Philip Scott, Councillor |

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

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 23 March 2021 were adopted: proposed: Doreen Phillips; seconded: Selu Mdlalose.

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

None

### **Item 5 Correspondence/meetings attended**

#### **a. Meeting attended**

##### **1. City Wide Parent Council Meeting on 18 May, Tara Javed**

Tara provided feedback on the City Wide Parent Council meeting. This meeting was rescheduled from 30 March. The main focus of the meeting was reporting back on the mechanism and timings for the results. The issue of water fountains was also discussed.

#### **b. Upcoming meeting**

There maybe a City Wide Parents' Meeting at the end of June. Nothing scheduled as yet.

#### **c. Correspondence**

1. **Parking:** Jim Cochrane emailed Wendy Cringle, the Secondary School Representative, to see if there was an update from the Pupil Parking and Safety Meeting. They have not yet had a meeting and it looks likely they will meet after the summer school holiday.

2. **Community behaviour and uniform concerns:** The Parent Council received a letter from Rebecca White on 20 May 2021. There were two issues raised in the letter.
- The first was about an incident which involved Grove students spitting food at each other and onto the pavement whilst in a large group outside Khans in Broughty Ferry. When she asked the students to stop doing this she was faced with abuse. She felt this was poor behaviour and there appeared to be no acknowledgement by the students of appropriate behaviour in the community.
  - The second concern was around the length of skirts worn by students. She explained that by allowing students to wear skirts that reveal upper thighs the school is condoning that this would be acceptable in the 'real' world. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that students can be successful in a work space.

The Grove Parent Council discussed the letter. The Parent Council, Graham and Tara agreed with the issues raised; with the caveat that most Grove pupils are extremely polite and an incident like this detracts from that. Current school roll is 1302 pupils.

An in-depth discussion was held around the issues. Graham explained to the meeting how these incidents are dealt with and what action is taken to reinforce the message about showing respect in the community including the school neighbours and the Ferry high street.

The main discussion points are as follows:

On behaviour on the high street:

- It is sometimes very difficult to follow up on incidents such as this unless there is a description of the pupil, an outstanding feature or CCTV. In the event that there is a lead to follow up on, a School / Pupil Support Worker will speak with the pupil and if necessary, get the parents/carers involved.
- Due to Covid there is no assembly, so getting the message out to pupils is difficult at the moment. The school do use tutor time to get messages to pupils, but this currently lacks the impact that an assembly message. In recent times, pre-recorded PowerPoints with voiceover have been used to communicate with pupils during tutor time.
- Grove is unable to put staff on the street to patrol at lunch times. Due to Covid the lunch times for are staggered (junior and senior pupils have lunch at different times) and there are four separate eating areas with pupils allocated areas by bubbles (clusters of year groups). This is challenging for staff to monitor/keep an eye within the school premises.

On the length of skirts:

- During the pandemic, the rules on school uniforms have been relaxed. In the new semester, Grove will increase the prioritisation of the uniform issue. Staff do set an example with their professional dress in challenge to the skirts worn by pupils.
- Ideas were raised on ways this message could be reinforced such as with spot checks on uniform with points gained for School Houses for those who adhere to professional dress.
- A parent raised that there is peer pressure on pupils to wear their uniform in a particular manner.
- A parent noted that they seldom see female pupils' cycle to school and wondered if the skirt was disadvantage to an active lifestyle.

Clare will send a response to Rebecca.

### **Item 6 Report by Rector, Graham Hutton**

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, provided a detailed and lengthily report on the activities, events, staffing changes since the previous Parent Council meeting. In summary:

#### **Since Easter**

- Return to full school for all year groups
- 3 cases of C19
- Otherwise, fine
- Bubbles in place – change of bubbles on Monday due to timetable change
- Staggered breaks/lunches – this will continue nonetheless.

#### **Events**

- 2021 Mock Courts Winners
- Emily Crawford – British Council mandarin Speaking Competition
- Aiden McCormack and friends Sasha Garden and Aimee Hume rescued a group of children in difficulty in the water.
- ROV – Adv Engineering Project – won for four year in succession – 1, 3 ,4<sup>th</sup> places.

#### **SQA**

- Focus on T and L
- Very Robust QA procedures
- Virtual Parents Evenings –S5/6 and S4
- Assessment window
- Learning Conversations with Pupils
- Further opportunities to do assessments
- Meetings with PTs – 20-28 May focussed on individual pupils – how they were doing – those in difficulty or causing concerns – plans in place to help and support and assess further.
- Further opportunities to do assessments
  
- SQA QA- 4 subjects – H Music Tech, AH Art & Design, N5 BS St, H Class Studies -fulsome praise from SQA – spot on – we understand the standards and are applying them correctly.
- QA procedures
- Assessment Days – school based – departments moderating, cross marking, working with colleagues at Morgan, and also with St Paul's, Craigie and Braeview, as well as some schools outwith Dundee in the Tayside RIC.
- Very useful two days – departments felt they were worthwhile – feeling this should happen every year.
- Results so far (met so far with 10/16 departments) – Education Officer present at many- very good results – trends, but also the chunking of assessments has helped all pupils to achieve better. – Not all focussed on one day and one exam. Improvement Trends continuing.
- Challenges by Morgan – none. We have the advantage of having in almost all departments a colleague who is an SQA Appointee.
- If dispute – professional discussion. Seek out an SQA Appointee via TRIC

- Results to go to DCC next week – QA by the authority - feedback by 21<sup>st</sup>
- Fine tuning
- Report to pupils – details yet to be confirmed, but by 23<sup>rd</sup> June at latest
- Provisional grades to SQA on June 25th
- Appeals – SQA announced this last week. Right of candidate to appeal.
- 3 types of appeal. – Academic, Administrative error, Discrimination

### **Timetable 2021/22**

- Changed yesterday – good – well organised.
- S1 Induction Days were cancelled, but each of the 3 main feeders will bring their young people in to Grove on one afternoon w/c June 21.

### **Staffing**

- Business Manager – Lynn Barry – was acting last year. Also parent.
- Teacher of Science/Physics – Sean Boyd – former NQT and FP
- Teacher of History – Kerry Hunt – former NQT (Elgin HS)
- Teacher of English – Laura Haggarty (Craigie)
  
- Teachers of HE, Business Studies, Music, Chemistry
- Calum Edwards -retiring – Angela McGill – acting PT
- Temp teacher of German and French – 3 candidates – Interviews on 14/06.
- Teacher of Numeracy and Nurture (SfL) – to be advertised
- ERW – no applicants – reconsidering the post
- 10 possible NQTs – CS, BS, Geog, Bio, French, Mandarin, CDT, 2 PE, RME
- CDT NQT will replace Martin Walker after almost 20 years' service
- 4 NQYT's will cover Maternity leave.
- 21 new staff in all
  
- S1 Alternative Curriculum – very early planning stages

### **Covid 19**

- No prize giving but hope to do so in September
- Staggered breaks/lunches will continue – rejigging of school day slightly

### **Next Meeting**

- Budget
- SIRP - EDLM

In the discussion that followed the Rector's Report, a number of parents reflected on assessment period and noted it was stressful for pupils, but the chunked assessments were better than one larger exam. Parents also mentioned that the online parent evenings worked well.

In the discussion, concern about the long term mental health and how it will manifest in both pupils and staff was raised. At the next meeting, Graham will speak about the new programme called 'Every Dundee Learner Matters', which looks at the mental health support for young people.

John mentioned that universities and colleges cannot confirm places until 10 August. Scotland Universities and Colleges will be flexible and are looking to see if extra places can

be made available. Many Grove pupils based in DCC area applied to Education Trust for their fees grant of £400.

#### **Item 7 Assessment Process**

Graham provided a detailed review of the assessment process in his report. He explained the process was robust. He explained how teacher prepare the evidence, assessments and marking sheet which are discussed at multiple levels including within the class, department, peer-reviewed with other schools, local authority and SQA. The two assessment days were used to check the marking used with the school improvement partners at Morgan Academy and St Pauls. These were useful days and led to fair assessment.

#### **Item 8 Multi-use Game Area (Muga) Pitch, fund raising, Tara Javed**

Tara provided an overview of the initiatives for the funding of the MUGA pitch. A number of meetings with Bruce Burnett, Friends of Grove, Fergus Storrier, Graham and Tara have been held. The company supplying the MUGA pitch have discounted their quotation from £61,000 to £50,000. A large proposal was submitted to the Regeneration Fund and a number of smaller local grants have also been approached. Graham is able to secure approximately £23,000 from trusts and bequests. There is not time scale for completion.

#### **Item 9 Constitution PC Working Group, Selu Mdlalose**

Selu, chair of the working group, provided a brief update on the working group. The group has not met since the last parent council meeting. The aim of the group is to review how the Parent Council function to be more effective and build in organisational support. The next step is to identify a narrow list of people we will consult and to issue a survey to parents for feedback. The findings on best practice will be presented in the AGM.

#### **Item 10 Any other current busines**

1. **Community Fridge:** The BFCC are involved in establishing a Community Fridge in Broughty Ferry. Tara, as a member of BFCC, provided an overview of the plans and asked for volunteers to contact her on [tara.broughtyferry@gmail.com](mailto:tara.broughtyferry@gmail.com) A parent suggested that the EcoGroup, Mrs Holligan or the Pupil Council maybe interested. A number of parents expressed interest. Graham mentioned that this could be used as a volunteer opportunity to pupils doing DoE or the Saltire Award.
2. **Duke of Edinburgh:** Selu asked for an update. Graham said the opportunities for new pupils is still limited. A number of staff have recently volunteered to be more involved. Some have just done a first aid course and other are taking measure to do their certification to be able to take pupils away on expeditions.

#### **Item 11 Items for the next meeting**

None

#### **Item 12 Dates of next meeting**

The next Parent Council meeting is on 21 September 2021 at 7pm. This will entail the AGM followed by an ordinary Parent Council meeting.

Tara closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and extending a thanks to Graham Hutton, the SLT and staff. Graham thanked the Parent Council.