

Grove Parent Council
Annual General Meeting minutes
Virtual meeting, Tuesday 22 September 2020, 19:00-19:30

Attendance

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Louise Abercrombie, Chairperson | 13. Graham Hutton, Head |
| 2. Kulsam Ali | 14. Tara Javed, Deputy Chairperson |
| 3. Stephen Bain, Treasurer | 15. Clare Jefferson, Clerk |
| 4. John Blicharski | 16. Fiona McLaughlin |
| 5. Shady Botros | 17. Selu Mdlalose |
| 6. Carol Blues | 18. Deepa Narayanan |
| 7. Kevin Cordell, Councillor | 19. Derek Scott, Councillor |
| 8. Andy Creamer, Deputy Head | 20. Hannah Steel |
| 9. Elaine Dawson | 21. Fiona Watson |
| 10. Andrew Fraser | |
| 11. Karen French | |
| 12. Elaine Hodge | |

1 Welcome and introductions

Louise welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

1. Lindsay Crosbie
2. Ewen Jenkin
3. Philip Scott, Councillor

Due to a technical mishap, a number of attendees who had indicated they would attend were erroneously emailed at the last moment to say the meeting was cancelled. This was an unfortunate technical hiccup. These attendees are also marked down as apologies, as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jim Cochrane | 4. Craig Duncan, Councillor |
| 2. Arlene Cuthill | 5. George Gilvear |
| 3. Jennifer Gallagher | 6. Doreen Phillips |

3 Approval of minutes of previous AGM

There were no changes to the minutes from the previous AGM held on 17 September 2019. The minutes from the previous AGM were adopted.

Proposed by Elaine Hodge and Seconded by Louise Abercrombie

4 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous AGM minutes.

5 Report of the Chairperson

Louise Abercrombie, chair of the Grove Parent Council for 2019/2020, gave a report on the Parent Council. As follows:

In this time of COVID the Parent Council would like to thank Graham Hutton and his team for adapting to this unprecedented event in continuing to educate our young people. Adapting and change was the headlines for all schools in the last 6 – 7 months and for some time to come it seems.

Zoom and Teams which seemed an alien concept to some has now become the norm for pupils, teachers and parents alike. Like all things that are new or

when thrown into at the deep end there were some frustrations from parents and teachers alike. However, overall there was a determination of keeping education going from all parties – even the pupils.

Our young people virtually moved up a year and for the most this was a smooth transition. An awareness of a lack of equipment in households whether that be due to parents suddenly working from home and only 1 PC or not having the right equipment at all; remedies were sought.

Lessons have been learnt and whilst not all questions have been answered, mainly due to the 'not 'knowing' or answers are out of the hands of the school, the school year is continuing and educating our young people is paramount.

I would like to take a moment to thank Clare Jefferson for all that she does in her capacity as Clerk to the Parent Council. Keeping us informed and highlighting areas of concern that has come to her attention.

6 Report of the Rector

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, provided a report to the AGM for the 2019/2020 session. As follows:

In preparing for this meeting, I looked over my AGM report for last year and what hit me was how far things have changed in the last year, but particularly in the last 6 months due to Covid-19! What started off as a “normal” year (if we ever have such a thing!) ended up totally abnormal and now we have the new normal which is different again. A wise man once said: “The only constant is change.” Well that change has been a whirlwind this last year.

The session 2019/20 started off well, with very good exam results in the 2019 diet. In the Attainment v deprivation data for S6 in particular we could see that we had succeeded very much in narrowing the attainment gap. Our literacy and numeracy figures were up too. Altogether a good year.

Staffing was fine, with 6 probationers, 3 new staff and 5 maternities (4 of which have returned to work and 1 who has left to go elsewhere nearer home). And at the end of the year we lost Scott Paterson and Marjorie Kerr to retirement – both great losses to the school. Through the year we said goodbye to Gerry Dillon, Chris Taylor (RE), Jim Smith (Art) and Josh Martin (Bus Studies) and Lynn Barry (acting Business Manager).

Our young people were doing amazing things as always.

- Tay Bridge Rainbow Walk and Dundee Pride– Equalities group
- Youth Sport Ambassadors
- RYLA – Chloe Hann
- Digital Schools Award
- Cyclathon
- S1 Pupils at Royal High School Pupil Conference
- Launch of the Grove Garden Apps
- History trip to Industrial Museum at Summerlee
- Maths Week

- AH Biology Assignment work in Millport
- Prince's Trust Cookbook
- Visit of Papal Astronomer, Brother Guy Consolmagno
- Grove HockeyGirls in Aspire Cup won 4/4 games
- ESU Scotland Mace Debating Ella and Thomas beat Strathallan
- *Humanutopia* - S3 pupils to shared event at Royal High
- Tina McGuff spoke at Mental Health evening - very successful
- Hugely successful Institute of Physics Girls into Physics and Engineering Day with 8 other schools.
- Grove Eco Group -Green Growers - won "It's your neighbourhood" award with distinction for Queen St and a Thriving Certificate for Sheil St Community Garden
- CHAS - chosen as school charity £803.96
- Girls football team won the Dundee FCCT soccer 7s tournament, then came 3rd in National Finals
- Aspire Cup semi final Hockey beat HSG 7-0
- Prince's Trust group - visit to Foodbank, and later over 1200 items donated
- S6 Sleep over and visit from Santa
- Winter Ball
- Mock Election
- S6 Bac showcased their projects to S2
- Eagles Wings Trust raised £538,10
- Ryan Arnott Under 18 International Schools football Squad
- Kelly Liu MCP – meeting with Scottish cabinet

And staff wise-

- Inset Staff Away Day to 26 venues across Scotland, from Cults to Dalkeith, from Arbroath to Renfrew, including RHS, Madras and Larbert.
- Mr Cramer's Trip to China – Mandarin now on the curriculum

Then it all came to a shuddering stop on March 22, when the country went into lockdown and schools closed.

We then had the challenges of On-line learning and all that that entailed. Lot of hard work was done and our On-line Portal has been commended across the country. Commend the staff for rising to the occasion. Yes, there were hiccoughs yes there were inconsistencies, but given the situation, our pupils were as best served as they could be. Engagement rate data from DCC post portal creation – 95%

Then we had the plans for blended learning, but despite all the plans, the Government decided to send us back to school earlier than planned on August 11th and we then had to adapt to the new normal. I shall speak about that later.

The lockdown, the Hubs and the pressure to get work on-line for pupils in a manner which they could access it, the desire to find solutions to whatever problems arose, the spending of our PEF money on more IT hardware for pupils without access to a device or the internet was as well designed as it

could have been, given the circumstances. And we discussed all this at the last Zoom PC meeting, including the plans for a blended learning return to school, which never materialised. They are still ready and may yet be pulled off the shelf, depending on developments in the near future, but from what I am hearing, the schools will remain open come what may. Throughout the lockdown, Mr Creamer, as acting Rector, played a huge part in the planning of all things Covid-related, whilst I was working in my national capacity as President of SLS. He has done a remarkable job and I commend him to you for this.

We were not able to do many of the things we normally do in the summer term. No exams, but a huge amount of time spent on moderating the estimates for the SQA Qualifications; no prizegiving - although we shall be presenting the prizes in year groups next Friday at a very low-key set of ceremonies; no P7 3 day Induction, but a lot of work done on-line and through teams plus a one-day induction when we returned in August with S1 in on their own for a day plus Buddies. It was not the same, but nevertheless, I am convinced we did the best we could under these precedented circumstances.

7 Report of the Treasurer

Stephen Bain has served as treasurer for the Grove Parent Council for 2019/2020. There is nothing to update on as no money was handled for the 2019/2020 session. The stipend from the City Council of £100 goes directly to the school fund.

8 Elections

The meeting elected new office bearers for the 2020/21 session as follows:

Chairperson: Tara Javed

Proposed by Kulsam Ali and seconded by Elaine Hodge

Vice chairperson: Selu Mdlalose

Proposed by Clare Jefferson and seconded by Deepa Narayanan

Treasurer: Stephen Bain

Proposed by Tara Javed and seconded by Deepa Narayanan

Clerk: Clare Jefferson

Proposed by Tara Javed Jim Cochrane and seconded by Elaine Hodge

9 Any Other Current Business

There was no other current business.

10 Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM is Tuesday 21 September 2021.