

**Grove Parent Council
Ordinary Meeting minutes**

Virtual meeting, Thursday 16 June 2022, 19:00 to 20:20

Attendance

The following people were present at the meeting.

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

Item 1 Welcome

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

Item 2 Apologies

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| 1. Jim Cochrane | 3. Deepa Narayanan |
| 2. Andy Fraser | 4. Peter Shears, Councillor |

Item 3 Approval of the previous minutes

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 29 March 2022 were adopted.

1. Proposed: John Blicharski Seconded: Selu Mdlalose

Item 4 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 5 Correspondence/meetings attended

There were no correspondence or meetings attended.

Item 6 Rector's Report, Graham Hutton

Graham Hutton delivered his report.

- 1. Covid 19:** There are still a number of staff and pupils off with covid. Covid is still in circulation. Some mitigations remain in place including desk wiping and sanitation. Mask wearing is no longer required but advised.
- 2. SQA:** The exams were held in May 2022. These were the first exams in three years. The organisation around the exam was extremely good. There are a small number of exceptional exam circumstances (where pupils were unable to sit their exams). Graham expects very few appeals. John Blicharski thanked the invigilator team.
- 3. MUGA pitch:** As noted in the previous meeting, sufficient funds have been raised to finance the installation of a MUGA pitch. The Moira Stewart Fund will donate the final £5000 required. The process is currently in the hands of Gordon Laidlaw who deals with school estate. It is hoped that the pitch is installed during the summer.
- 4. Achievements and Events since last meeting**
Graham provided a detailed review of the achievements and events since the previous meeting. As follows:

- Two Grove teams were entered into the Mate ROV Competition 2022. These included Discovery Robotics Grove and NERV Rov. Discovery Robotics Grove won the national competition (April 2022) and they are representing Scotland at the final in California. NERV Rov were runners up, giving Grove Academy a 1-2 finish.
- The Lang Foundation provided £750 to assist the Grove Advanced Engineering students and winner of the Mate ROV Competition 2022, namely Discovery Robotics Grove, to travel to Long Beach, California for the World Final.
- Ollie Brander was capped for Scotland Under 18s Boys Football.
- The Dundee Final of Scottish Young Musicians were held at Harris Academy (25 April 2022). Lachlan Latto was the runner up in the Dundee leg of the competition. Other performers were Fraser Robson and Sarah de Villiers.
- Grove embedding Learning Partnerships with the Head Teachers of Earlston High School in the Scottish Borders and Royal High School of Edinburgh. Under this agreement, there are a number of working groups established to exchange ideas and best practice across all levels of the school. There is also a new Learning Partnership with Cults Academy in Aberdeen. During the in-service days in November, the plan is to allow Grove staff to visit a number of schools across Scotland, including and beyond these learning partnerships, to get access to good practice which will enhance the school.
- Young Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) was held on 18 May 2022. There were 12 groups. The group (comprising Erin, Megan, Leah and Wila) that championed the charity Feeling Strong won first place with an award of £3k to the charity, while second place to the group focusing on Brae £1k and third place to Well-being Works £500.
- Dundee Rotary presented awards to pupils for Young Artist, Photographer and Writer of the year competition.
- The Duke of Edinburgh programme is up and running. There have been a few expeditions. Many thanks to the staff who have taken on this award. There will be fund raising for new equipment including tents.
- The farewell to the S6 group went extremely well with a shirt signing, BBQ lunch and PowerPoint of old photos and presentation of certificates, prizes and souvenir Leavers 22 Mug.
- Hannah Haggarty is the winner of the UK Arabic Speaking Competition 2022.
- Sports Day was held for the S1-S3 pupils at Dawson Park. It was the first time in three years. It was a well organised event.
- Ella Matthews was the first person in Scotland to win the Hopper Award for Excellence in Computer Science. She is an ambassador for computer science. She appears as a cartoon depiction on a poster promoting women in computing.
- At the annual Edinburgh Angus Club Awards ceremony held this year at Harris Academy, Grove Pupils Ella and Hannah were recognised for their achievements. Ella for her Higher English and Higher Drama. Hannah for her Advanced Highers English. Grove has been asked to host this ceremony next year.
- The P7 transition to S1 in school visits and the induction evening for parents/carers were held at Grove Academy. It was very successful. The company Tree of Knowledge led some of the induction day events on growth mind set. Pupils also had a chance to have their uniform fittings. Grove welcomed the Parents of the new S1s into the building for the first time since February 2020.
- The school leavers held the final fling at Piper Dam on 14 June. This was a great farewell to a good year group.
- U17s Boys won the DSFA Grant Memorial Cup Championship
- The Grove Senior Girls Football Team won the George Soutar Memorial Cup 9-0.

- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow, held an orchestra event at Grove Academy including musicians from Grove, Craigie, Forthill, Barnhill and Eastern schools on 15 June.

5. Staffing

A summary of the current staffing was provided. As follows:

- Mathew Robertson has been appointed as the new permanent Depute Rector. Tara represented parents on the interviews.
- Posts in Modern Studies, Physics and Support for Learning are being advertised. The post of computing will also be re-advertised.
- Shaun Murphy was appointed to a permanent PE post having finished his year as NQT. Three other NQT have also been offered permanent posts.
- Grove will receive 9 NQTs for the 2022/23 session
- The HE Principal Teacher will be taking maternity leave. An advert for a temporary teacher will be advertised. In the event that no teacher is found, there may be a need to reduce the number of senior courses and the number of S1 HE periods.

6. Faculties

Mr Hutton outlined the ongoing issue of faculties. Dundee City Council is the only Council in Scotland that has not adopted the faculty model. The method for appointing staff to the faculty head positions was outlined with posts being advertised firstly to substantive PTs in Dundee, secondly to any relevant teacher in that faculty in Dundee, thirdly then out with Dundee. These appointments may impact staffing. The EIS have called for industrial action on 22 June. A letter will be sent to parents outlining the arrangements. Secondary schools, including Grove, will be unable to open for the majority of pupils, and they will only be open to vulnerable children and children of key workers.

7. Future events

A summary of the future events was provided. As follows:

- Award Ceremony for S1-S5 will be held on 31 August
- Parking in the school parking ground is presenting a number of problems especially for staff being able to access disability bays. Grove will ask for additional disability bays to be installed. A vibrant discussion around this issue ensued. Issues of safety were raised.

In the discussion, both John and Clare Biggans extended thanks to staff for the exam invigilators and the staff that ran support sessions for pupils.

Item 7 Constitution PC Working Group

Parent Council voted on the adoption of the new Constitution.

Proposed: Hannah Steel

Seconded: Karen French

Tara thanks Selu Mdlalose for chairing the Constitution Working Group. Selu will produce an 'explainer' document to show how the PC will function in practice under the new constitution.

Item 9 Any other current business

1. Lack of common room or space for S6 pupils. Karen French raised this issue that senior pupils did not have a viable location for study during free lessons. Mr Hutton

explained the general lack of space within the school building and said they are exploring options.

2. Consultation on future parent evenings. It was felt that on-line parent evenings have many advantages over in-person parent evenings. Perhaps the contact time with teachers could be tweaked. Grove is undertaking a consultation on this matter. Thus far 240 responses have been received.

Item 10 Items for the next meeting

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- S6 Common Room
- Improve the methods of alerting parents to the Parent Council meetings. We need to ensure that all parents are aware of the meetings. Mr Hutton offered us the use of the school texting platform for this purpose.

Item 11 Dates of next meeting

The next Parent Council meeting is on 20 September 2022 at 7pm. This will follow directly on from the AGM.