

## **Grove Parent Council meeting minutes**

Grove Academy Staffroom, 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm, Tuesday 21 Jan 2020

### **Attendance**

- |                 |                             |                           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Kulsam Ali   | 5. Lindsay Crosbie          | 9. Clare Jefferson, clerk |
| 2. Stephen Bain | 6. Elaine Hodge             | 10. Selu Mdlalose         |
| 3. Jim Cochrane | 7. Graham Hutton            | 11. Doreen Phillips       |
| 4. Andy Creamer | 8. Tara Javed, deputy chair |                           |

### **Item 1 Welcome**

Tara Javed, deputy chair of the Grove Parent Council, chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone followed by a round of introductions.

### **Item 2 Apologies**

- |                                 |                     |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Louise Abercrombie,<br>chair | 3. Ewen Jenkin      | 5. Deepa Narayanan  |
| 2. Cllr Craig Duncan            | 4. Fiona McLaughlin | 6. Cllr Derek Scott |

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

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 19 November 2019 were adopted without changes: proposed: Jim Cochrane; seconded: Elaine Hodge.

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

There were matters arising from the previous minutes. The discussions are summarised below.

#### **4.1 Duke of Edinburgh**

Graham provided an update of the progress made on enlarging the team of staff supporting pupils in their attainment of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are six members of staff attached to the DoE. There have been two courses delivered by Chris Wood, centre support officer for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, operating in Dundee and Angus. Grove has identified an expert to lead the hike for the Low Land Terrain Certification. The current priority is to get the store room sorted out which includes the cleaning the sleeping bags and water proofing the tents. The top cohort of pupils that will be supported are those bronze and silver level pupils that have done the expedition but not yet signed off their skills, sports or volunteer work. The next step is to have a soft launch of a bronze intake of pupils. Grove will have to limit the numbers, but as of yet no final criteria have been set or the number of pupils that will be permitted in the intake. To date no parental volunteers have signed up to get involved.

#### **4.2 Parking and traffic**

Jim provided an update on the issue of parking and traffic in and around Grove Academy. A discussion was held around the safety of pupils on Seafield Road adjacent to the school. Jim will communicate with Garrie Watson, Community Constable, Community Policing about our concerns. It is a parental responsibility to remind pupils on bicycles to wear helmets, visibility gear and cycle in single file.

#### **4.3 Heating**

In the previous meeting, Doreen raised the issue of the extreme temperatures in some classrooms. Graham reported back on the issue. Graham spoke with Chris, the head facilities

manager, who explained that they suspect the thermostat may be defective. Robertsons are arranging for a heating engineer to check the pipes that bring in the under-floor heating.

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

5.1 No meetings were attended by the parent council members.

5.2 Doreen attended the Broughty Ferry Community Council meeting and said they intend to introduce an Information Notice Board in the Ferry that would be useful for information sharing.

5.3 Clare noted that the Grove Parent Council continue to receive regular emails from Natalie Mackland, Communities Officer (The Ferry).

5.4 Grove Academy sent out a letter to all parents entitled Secondary School Provision within East Dundee. The letter notified parents that the Children and Families Services Committee plan to start a formal consultation in relation to learning state option concerning Braeview Academy and Craigie High School. A brief mention was made that that the parent council should discuss the change in catchment proposal aspects of the proposal, but queried whether Children and Families Services Committee would possibly send officials to do a discussion/focus group with the parent council. No discussion was held on the topic. We put it down as an agenda item for our next meeting.

### **Item 6 Visit to China, Andy Creamer**

Andy Creamer, Deputy Head, provided background on links between Grove Academy and China. These originate in the work done by Grove Academy's Advanced Engineering Team's participation in the ROV Competition in 2018 and 2019; especially our winning of the Marine Advanced Engineering Competition in 2019. The school was approached by IPERC regarding establishing links with schools in China based around the ROV program Grove runs. Following this Andy visited China in October and signed partnership agreements with two schools (Nanhui High School in Shanghai and Tangshan No2 school in Tangshan). From these partnerships Grove plans to develop a number of options for collaboration between the schools. There has been contact between the Grove ROV group and the Chinese ROV group at Tangshan already. Andy is also looking at possible options to source funding and support for the delivery of Mandarin as part of the curriculum at Grove and the development of these links offer a range of possibilities for pupils at Grove Academy. There is also the long term benefits for employment opportunities given the significance of the Chinese economy.

### **Item 7 Report by Rector, Graham Hutton**

Graham Hutton, Rector of Grove Academy, presented his report on achievements, events, future events and staffing since November 2019. He started with a welcome to everyone on the occasion of the first PC of the new decade! The main items discussed are as follows:

#### **Achievements and Events**

- HE Breakfast Club - free.
- 20 Nov - Tina McGuff spoke at Mental Health evening - very successful
- 21 Nov - hugely successful IoP 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

- Alan Britton - TRIC - project based learning
- CHAS - chosen as school charity £803.96
- Iris and Charlotte through to second round of Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Competition
- Girls football team won the Dundee FCCT soccer 7s tournament, then came 3rd in National Finals
- Berlin trips
- Swop shop clothing
- U16s boys football progressed to next round of the Schools Scottish Shield, beating Nicholson Institute 4-0
- Senior Team beat Alford 5-0 in their shield match
- Aspire Cup semi final Hockey beat HSG 7-0
- Princes trust group x visit to Foodbank, and later over 1200 items donated
- D of E leadership group
- S6 Sleep over and visit from Santa
- Winter Ball
- Mock Election
- S6 Bac showcased their projects to S2
- Eagles Wins Trust raised £538,10
- Music and Drama Christmas Concert
- Ryan Arnott Under 18 International Schools football Squad
- GAMS Trip to London - Evening Tele report
- Christmas Newsletter
- Prelims
- Careers Convention
- S1 boys into last 16 of Scottish cup winning 5-4 against Aberdeen Grammar
- S2 PCE
- Course Choice Info Evening

### **Future events**

- Reports for S4-6 - Tracking and monitoring, mentoring
- S3 PCE
- Rotary Talk - Jack Waghorn re ROV
- YPI Charity Fair
- Ceilidh
- School Captains at SLS Pupil Empowerment Conference

### **Budget**

- Very difficult - in red, due to the excess we declared not being moved.
- Budget for next year, again looking like a 3% cut.
- Will try and avoid cutting Per Capita
- Cost of the School Day - need criteria for subsidies.
- Mainly staffing. Already there, so just need to decide if vacancies will be filled by this years NQTs or by next year's
- Struggling with Tutors - PTs now involved
- Faculties - going ahead - consultation with unions - 10 Faculties

## **Staffing**

- Vacancies in BS, Art and Design and Chemistry. To be filled how?
- Maternity in Music and Numeracy/Geog.
- No supply in Music, Help from Instrumental teacher re Music Technology
- Kiran Oza - full GTCS reg - Congrats! BS/Computing and Numeracy
- Guidance: JPC - career break, Jayne Samson acting PT Reres, Murray Redford , Gillies (Physics Supply in 2 days), Dee Neilson 0.2 (Dawson)
- Musical chairs also welcomed back Mr Beckett in PE temporarily.

## **SIP**

- Reviewed it - making progress.
- Leaders -
- Learning and Teaching - Mrs Young and Miss McCall
- Raising attainment - Mrs McDonald, Mr Pyott, Mr Robertson
- Pupil Leadership - Mrs Lees, Mr Anderson, Miss Dow
- Communications - Miss Dow

Mr Creamer - IDL- and GH - Learners Pathways. Invitation from HMIE to join these national groups, through the school's progress.

## **Item 8 Visions and Values**

Graham provided a handout with the school vision and value. There was a discussion on the existing values and how these could be enhanced. It was felt that perhaps the word resilience could be added as a new value. Similar discussions on the school vision and value are also being undertaken with pupils and staff.

## **Item 9 Any Other Current Business**

9.1 Lyndsay asked about whether the school budget could claw back some costs by allowing pupils to walk to Dawson Park for PE. Graham explained that the cost of the bus to transport pupils to Dawson Park is not part of Grove Academy's devolved budget. The developed budget includes Microsoft licences, rates, heating, lighting and furniture fund.

## **Item 10 Items for the next meeting**

Items for the next meeting include:

- Parking
- Vision and values
- Budget
- Secondary School Provision within East Dundee proposal, with a specific focus on the change in the Grove Academy catchment area

## **Item 11 Dates of next meeting**

The date for the next meeting of the 2019/20 session is Tuesday 24 March 2020.