

**Grove Parent Council
Ordinary Meeting minutes**

Virtual meeting, Tuesday 29 March 2022, 19:00 to 20:20

Attendance

The following people were present at the meeting.

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| 1. Kulsam Ali | 9. Clare Jefferson, Clerk |
| 2. Stephen Bain, Treasurer | 10. Laura Larkworthy, Deputy Head Teacher |
| 3. Clare Biggans | 11. Fiona McLaughlin |
| 4. John Blicharski | 12. Selu Mdlalose, Deputy Chairperson |
| 5. Karen French | 13. Doreen Phillips |
| 6. Jennifer Gallagher | 14. Hannah Steel |
| 7. Graham Hutton, Rector | 15. Amanda Speedie, acting Principal Teacher |
| 8. Tara Javed, Chairperson | |

Item 1 Welcome

Tara Javed, Chairperson of the Grove Parent Council, chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone with special mention to two members of staff, Laura Larkworthy and Amanda Speedie.

Item 2 Apologies

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| 1. Jim Cochrane | 3. Deepa Narayanan |
| 2. Elaine Dawson | |

Item 3 Approval of the previous minutes

Graham Hutton provided clarification on the three scenarios under which the exams could take place. Option A where the exams run with modification or changes to the content of the exams. Option B where there is more support such as pupils being given the exam topics. Under option B, the current scenario, pupils are given limited help such as focused assistance on exam techniques. Option C is where there are no exams with results based on estimates. Tara will provide two SQA papers on this issue.

The minutes from the previous PC meeting of 25 January 2022 were adopted.

Proposed: Selu Mdlalose Seconded: Stephen Bain

Item 4 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

Item 5 Correspondence/meetings attended

1. **Road safety:** Clare provided a review of the emails sent to Jim Cochrane. On 22 February, Jim Cochrane the parent council representative on transport and safety matters, forwarded four emails. The correspondence deals with feedback from the School Parking and Pupil Safety Working Group who has been made aware of concerns expressed about the current positioning of the bus shelter and guardrail on Claypotts Road, outside Grove Academy, and the inappropriate use of the traffic calming island as a pedestrian crossing and the location of the railings. The letter from John Berry provides background information on these issues. Key advice included to encourage pupils to stand back from the road at the foot of the steps when waiting for a bus. Refer to annex 1.

The other email correspondence dealt with the patrol crossing on Church Street. The Eastern Primary PC suggest a strategy of increasing footfall at the crossing to secure its long-term prospects. It will continue as a temporary crossing until May.

2. Resident's parking survey and Forthill PC parking survey: Clare provided a review of the surveys. Forthill PS conducted two parking surveys with the parents and residents on parking. There were 183 resident responses (25 Aug to 03 Sep 2021) and 108 parent responses (1-4 April 2021). Clare assisted in the processing of the data. Some of the survey questions included:

- What do you feel are the main issues with parking around the school?
- Do you have any suggestions about how we could improve the parking situation around the school?
- What would make it more likely for you to choose an active method of travel to school, e.g. cycling, walking etc.?

Item 6 Amanda Speedie, acting Principal Teacher of Improving Teaching and Learning speaking

Laura Larkworthy has been DHT at Grove since August. She outlined her role and areas of focus. Amanda Speedie undertook a presentation on the new Grove Standard for Teaching and Learning. The presentation unpacked the aims of the review and how the new Grove Standards for Learning and Teaching Wheel was developed for both teacher and students. The Wheel will be launched after the April holidays. Posters of the student wheel will be produced for the classrooms and other visualisation will be installed across the school.

In the discussions, Amanda clarified that differentiation meant that the lessons should be accessible for all pupils, not just level of the material but the manner in which it is presented. It was reiterated that this material should be made available to parents to reinforce with our children. We thanked Amanda for the presentation. The presentation was quite specialised for people in education. Refer to annex 2.

Item 7 Rector's Report, Graham Hutton

Graham Hutton delivered his report.

- 1. Covid 19:** During 2022, Grove has been impacted a great deal by Covid. Perhaps more so than anytime during the pandemic. After Christmas 22 staff were off with Covid, and consistently since then there have been 4-5 staff off per week. Covid mitigations are still in place at Grove. These include face coverings, hand sanitising, desk wiping, opening windows/doors for ventilation, LFTs and logging results. Face covering are no longer required in the classrooms, but they should be worn in common and social areas such as corridors and dining area.
- 2. SQA:** Grove is doing robust and accurate estimates of the marks for the SQA. Senior reports will be issued prior to the holidays. These are based on evidence. The final estimates will be done by 20 April and these will be sent to the SQA on 22 April. The estimates will only be used for appeals or in those circumstances that a pupil cannot sit the exams.
- 3. Muga pitch:** Sufficient funds have been raised to finance the installation of a muga pitch. The next step is to complete the Pitch Strategy Review and then to the procurement. It is

hoped the construction can take place in the summer. The pitch will be used for PE, break/lunch times, and after school.

4. Achievements and Events since last meeting

Graham provided a detailed review of the achievements and events since the previous meeting. As follows:

- MUGA – money from LCPP – confirmed last week, all other monies in place except £5k from Moira Stewart Trust – should be forthcoming – but have back-up
- Pitch Strategy review – maintenance down the line
- Construction over the summer
- Miss Dow – UK Parliament Teacher of the Year Award; school won Highly Commended Award Parliament Award
- Ollie Brander – playing for Scotland U18s football Internationalist
- Elspeth and Charlotte won Tayside regional heat in the Procurators Fiscal Public Speaking Competition
- DDSA Dance competition – 2 bronzes – Street and open dance teams
- X Country – S1 Girls and boys gold, S3 Girls Gold
- Maddie Latto and Amelia Goodfellow – Anne Frank Trust Ambassadors
- Holocaust day at Anne Frank Trust London
- Visit if CWGC team
- AH Biology – Bac – Grove on the Mic Podcasts
- Harry and Natalie – Debate Mate at Dubai Expo
- Fiona Lawrence – Insight- Lit Num – role of Guidance and SfL in Raising Attainment

5. Staffing

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

- Temp Teacher of Biology – supply
- PSW – Stephanie Walker from 18th April
- PT Guidance – Angela Forbes
- DHT – no appointment – readvertise after Easter
- NQTs – post for Fiona Levins and Justine Boissier; Appointed CDT teacher – quality not good enough in Computing; only 1 candidate for 4 schools in maths -= readvertised both
- PE- advert in pipeline

In the discussion, Selu asked a question about the stress of the pandemic/lockdown on the mental wellbeing of pupils and whether this was impacting on students' overall ability to concentrate. Graham said that he recognised these issues in the school and that motivation was low amongst pupils. The prelim results were lower than expected. He is concerned about the attainment of the S5/S6 pupils.

Graham said Grove was providing an April study programme during the holidays to help senior pupils. There is already study support in place after school. Grove has councillors which are accessed via guidance staff. Selu spoke about a 'generalised malaise' amongst the young people. Graham confirmed that students lacked a sense of urgency with their school work and the exams.

John spoke about the appeals process and emphasised that for many students who put in appeals, the outcome would be disappointing as universities and colleges sometimes need to allocate the spaces prior to the appeal being decided on. It is especially hard to keep places

open while waiting for appeals due to the student backlog and some students will need to wait a year before reapplying.

John also spoke about the high standards of the training of invigilators, with special mention of the manual.

Item 8 Constitution PC Working Group, Selu Mdlalose

Selu provided an update on the documents circulated to members. Parents had been sent a copy of the current draft Constitution. Parents were given an opportunity to raise any other issues. No questions or issues were raised. It was proposed that the Parent Council vote to adopt the new Constitution in the next meeting.

Item 9 Any other current business

None.

Item 10 Items for the next meeting

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Voting on the adoption of the new Parent Council Constitution

Item 11 Dates of next meeting

The next Parent Council meeting is on 14 June 2022 at 7pm. This is the last meetings for the 2021/22 session.

Before closing the meeting, Tara read a poem of thanks to acknowledge that this is the last meeting for parent Doreen Phillips. Doreen has been a consistent member of the parent council since August 2013. Doreen has fulfilled the role of deputy chairperson for four years.

Annex 1 Correspondence from John W Berry, Team Leader, Parking & Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Transport & Roads Division, Dundee City Council - City Development

SUBJECT: Road Safety concerns at Claypotts Road, Grove Academy

TO ELECTED MEMBERS, FERRY WARD

The School Parking and Pupil Safety Working Group has been made aware of concerns expressed about the current positioning of the bus shelter and guard rail on Claypotts Road, outside Grove Academy. Through the working group, I have been asked to provide elected members and the school with some background and advice on this issue.

Within a couple of years of the new school opening in 2010, concerns were expressed about the sightlines for drivers accessing and egressing the Grove Academy car park. A review was undertaken by the Council's road safety team and a decision was taken to relocate the bus shelter from its then position to the north of the car park entrance to a new location some 50m to its south. At the time of the improvement works in early 2013, a traffic island, designed to prevent vehicles from overtaking any stationary buses was installed in the centre of Claypotts Road. It is an illegal manoeuvre for vehicles travelling southwards, towards central Broughty Ferry to pass on the wrong side of the traffic island.

There has been some confusion about the purpose of the traffic island. To clarify, the island was not intended as a pedestrian refuge and we would not expect it to be used as such. Anyone wishing to cross Claypotts Road can do so either side of the guardrail and cross straight over to the opposing footway.

When pupils are waiting for buses, we acknowledge that space at the shelter is limited, but there is significant space in the area behind the guardrail and at the foot of the steps and we would encourage pupils to stand in this area while waiting to catch a bus.

<https://goo.gl/maps/XB9VqHAn1Cee7xoT8> - the current bus shelter location

<https://goo.gl/maps/FjGqMHLnPHfR3NAu5> - the original bus shelter location (image from July 2012)

I will share this message with Mr Hutton at Grove Academy and ask that he shares it with the Parent Council.

I am aware that Broughty Ferry Community Council has separately contacted the Council on this matter and have received a similar reply/explanation.

John B

Annex 2: Amanda Speedie presentation on Grove Standard for Learning and Teaching (extract)

Grove Standard for Learning & Teaching

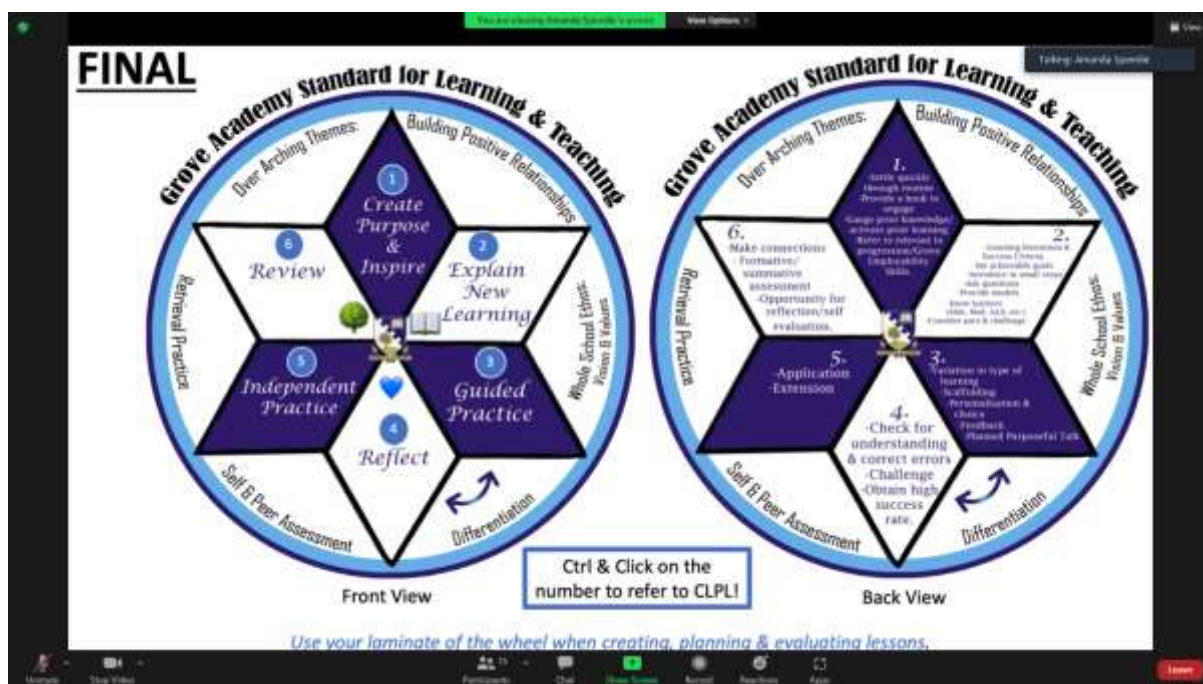
GIRFL- Getting it right for lessons

Aim:

To refresh our Learning & Teaching Principles in order to improve *consistent* standards within Teaching and Learning in our school from *student teachers to all staff*.
Develop an approach to L&T that is *easy to follow* and maintain to avoid 'speed camera' behaviours as Tom Sherrington states. This approach would likely take place *over a series of lessons*.

1. **Create Purpose & Inspire**- settle quickly through routine, provide a hook, engage, gauge prior knowledge/activate prior learning-retrieval, relevant to progression/Grove employability skills
2. **Explain New Learning**- LI&SC- set achievable goals, introduce in small steps, ask questions, provide models. Know learners (Able Med, AAA, etc.), pace & challenge.
3. **Guided Practice**- variation in task, scaffolding, personalisation & choice, feedback, formative assessment.
4. **Reflect**- Check for understanding & correct errors, challenge. Obtain a high success rate.
5. **Independent Practice**- Application, Extension
6. **Review**-Make Connections, Formative/summative Assessment, opportunity for reflection/self evaluation.

Over Arching themes: Building Positive Relationships, Whole School Ethos; vision & values
Differentiation, Self/Peer Assessment, Retrieval Practice.



Pupil Focus Groups Collated Responses

1. **Come *prepared* to learn**
Turn up prepared with materials, homework & a positive attitude to help you learn.
2. **Be *motivated* to learn**
Show interest, be willing to challenge yourself, have the confidence to try things, contribute ideas, work to the best of your ability.
3. ***Engage***
Listen, focus and participate in lessons.
4. **Don't be *distracted or a distraction***
Allow yourself & others to fully focus.
5. ***Respect everyone; cooperate and help others.***
Cooperate with teachers & other pupils, help and support peers.
6. ***Review your learning, progression, feedback & set targets.***
Be honest about your own achievements/challenges with yourself & teachers. Act on feedback to make progress. Reflect on what has been learnt.

Over Arching themes: Building Positive Relationships, Whole School Ethos; vision & values, Contribute to a safe & positive environment