

GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD ON 23rd APRIL 2012



Present:

Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham	<i>Chair</i>
Ken Gregor	<i>Depute Chair</i>
Ian Duncan	<i>Parent Member (Treasurer)</i>
Lesley Warner	<i>Parent member</i>
Kevin McCabe	<i>Parent Member</i>
Lewis Patterson	<i>Acting Head Teacher</i>
Heather Livingston	<i>Staff member</i>
<i>Lauren Burnett</i>	<i>Pupil Member</i>
Kenny MacKaskill	<i>MSP, S.N.P</i>
<i>David Wright</i>	<i>CEC-Head of Schools</i>

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Lesley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Visitor David Wright, Head of Schools from City of Edinburgh Council

Due to David's Visit the meeting moved to item 5 on the Agenda

5. David Wright – Head of Schools –CEC

David gave a detailed explanation of the Management Restructuring Process. He explained the need for High Schools in the City to achieve savings of £2.4million and why introducing a system of Curriculum Leaders and reducing the number of Depute Head Teachers would achieve this without the need to reduce the number of frontline Teachers. He advised that the success of this process had led to there being no reduction in School budgets this year.

Ian and Kevin asked David about the affect of losing the experienced Heads of Departments.

David responded by advising that the CEC was investing in the development of the Curriculum Leaders and that he believed they would play a greater role in the School Management Team and that Schools would be supported in allowing leadership and best practice to develop across all Schools.

Ken asked how the changes would be monitored to ensure that the benefits envisaged took place.

David advised that he was very aware that these were serious and difficult changes for Schools and if there had not been the economic requirement they would have been introduced over a longer time frame. He also advised that continuous assessment would be taking place with all Head Teachers and Schools to recognise any problems.

Ken asked David how he thought that Gracemount High was progressing.

David replied that he felt Gracemount continued to set high standards and continued to 'punch above its weight' in introducing exciting and new initiatives.

Lesley thanked David for attending and being so open and honest in his answers.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting in January were agreed with some minor spelling and grammar changes.

3. Report from Chair

Lesley advised that the CEC Parental Involvement Unit were holding a series of seminars and anyone wishing to attend should contact Lesley.

4. Report from Treasurer

Ian advised that following expenditure incurred in publicising and entertaining at the AGM the current balance in funds was £787.89

6 Report from pupil member

Lauren advised that the Pupil Council was ongoing but it was felt that most representation was coming from the senior School and that they were attempting different ways of encouraging younger Pupils to play a more effective roll.

Lauren raised the issue that senior Pupils were concerned at the level of homework being issued particularly at short notice in addition to revision work.

Lewis suggested Lauren attend the Department Heads (curricular Leaders) meeting to discuss this.

7 Head teacher's report

Lewis advised that he was thoroughly enjoying his time as Acting Head Teacher.
He had been particularly impressed with the Dance and Music Shows before the Easter break

Ashleigh Kennedy

Ashleigh has been shortlisted for the probationer of the Year award and staff from the Scottish Education Awards would be visiting the School on Wednesday 23/04 to see Ashleigh teaching and meet with other staff and Parents.

Citric Saturday

Pupils had been involved in citric Saturday which was a competition involving Pupils from Drummond and Gracemount selling homemade Orange Juice. Gracemount Pupils raised approximately £300.

Staffing

Interviews had taken place for a Curriculum Leader of Science the preferred candidate had been indicated to the CEC and would be announced when all vacancies had been filled.

Study leave

Study leave would be starting for all pupils taking exams over the next week.

Improvement Planning

This was ongoing taking the views of staff and pupils.

The School are struggling to get Parents Views. The questionnaire on the web site had received one reply.

Ken suggested adding the link on the PC facebook page.

8 Issues from Staff/Pupils/Parents

a. Staff

No issues from Staff

b. Pupils

No issues were raised by pupils.

c. Parents

No issues were raised by parents.

9 Any Other Business

Parent Council Funds, The issue of how to use PC funds for the benefit of the School and the PC.

Since the last meeting all Curriculum leaders had been asked for ideas on how to achieve this.

Two ideas had been raised; the learning support team had requested funding for games for a wii console to be used on reward days which would promote positive behaviour.

The Head teacher had requested funding for laptop bags in return for publicity for the Parent Council

Both suggestions were discussed and it was agreed to provide £100 for learning support and £500 towards the cost of laptop bags.

The School will publicise the PC in return for these donations.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 11th June 2012.