

**GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD ON 12th JUNE 2008

Present:

Jim Cassidy	<i>Head Teacher</i>
Ken Gregor	<i>Parent Member (Chair)</i>
Morag Clarke	<i>Parent Member (Vice Chair)</i>
Ian Duncan	<i>Parent Member (Treasurer)</i>
Arthur Hopkinson	<i>Parent Member</i>
Laura Johnston	<i>Staff Member</i>
Jim Brown	<i>Acting Depute Head Teacher</i>
Scott Mackenzie	<i>Business Manager</i>
Caroline Sanderson	<i>Clerk</i>

1. Welcome and Apologies

Ken Gregor welcomed everybody to the meeting, including Jim Brown and Scott Mackenzie who were in attendance. Apologies had been received from Bob Perry.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2008 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Cancellation of Parental Involvement Seminars (Item 4)

The seminars planned for 7th and 10th May had been cancelled due to lack of interest. The Parental Involvement Unit would consult Parent Councils next year to find out what might be more useful.

4. Report from Head of Science/Acting Depute Head Teacher

Jim Brown gave his views of the school at the end of his first year as Head of Science. He said that he was very impressed by the sense of dynamism and the positive energy of both staff and pupils. Progress was being made in the Science department, with a clear vision of how to move forward. He was currently acting as Depute Head Teacher while Pauline Walker was away on maternity leave and this was providing a different and interesting experience.

5. Report from Business Manager

Scott Mackenzie was pleased to report that this year's SQA examinations had been conducted very smoothly, with no disruption. Results were due on 5th August and it was hoped that they would show a continuing trend of improvement. A programme of maintenance works was planned for the summer holidays, including painting the stairwells and work on the security system, and there were currently no change requests outstanding. A new Amey facilities manager was in post and he was proving very helpful.

6. Report from Chair

Ken reported as follows:

E-mail Address for Parent Council

He had set up an e-mail address for the Parent Council as follows:

ghs.parentcouncil@googlemail.com

This was for use by people who wished to contact the Parent Council and would be publicised to parents.

Ken to talk to Scott about including this in the information issued to parents at the start of the session.

Results of Parent Council Questionnaire

The number of completed questionnaires received on the night of the Fashion Show was 9 out of 100 issued. Ken would analyse the results and present them in graphical form at the next meeting.

7. Review of Parent Council Constitution

The Parent Council constitution had been circulated and was open to review at the end of the first year of operation.

Send any comments about the constitution to Ken.

8. Dates of Meetings 2008/09

The following dates were set for meetings in Session 2008/09:

Parent Forum AGM	18 th September 2008
Parent Council	16 th October 2008
Parent Council	4 th December 2008
Parent Council	22 nd January 2009
Parent Council	2 nd April 2009
Parent Council	11 th June 2009

All meetings would start at 7.00pm.

9. Report from Treasurer

Ian Duncan reported that the current bank balance was £226.48. There had been no expenditure during the financial year ended 31st March 2008. The accounts would need to be audited before presentation at the AGM.

10. Report from Head Teacher

Jim Cassidy reported as follows:

Staffing

- There would be 6 probationary teachers next year, in Maths, History, PE, French, Music and Physics.
- An appointment would be made soon in Support for Learning.

S1 Intake

Timetabling was proceeding on the basis that the S1 intake would be 135 next session. The extra 15 pupils would be split between the 6 classes for core subjects, taking the numbers above 20 in each class.

SQA Examinations

The head invigilator had commented on the good behaviour of this year's examination candidates.

Activities Programme

The annual activities programme had taken place in the previous week and had been very successful. Thanks were due to the staff who had organised the various events.

Transformational Plan Update

A paper was circulated showing an update on the transformational plan.

Road Safety

Part-time 20 mph zones were being created outside the school (Lasswade Road and Captain's Road) at the beginning and end of the school day. The Pupil Council was concerned at the lack of a crossing on Captain's Road and had approached local Councillors about the need for a pelican crossing.

11. Issues Raised by Parents/Staff/Pupils

No issues had been raised by any of these groups.

12. Any Other Business

Ken presented a bottle of wine to Morag Clarke, who would be standing down as a Parent Member because her son was leaving school. He thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Parent Council and previously the School Board during the past 9 years.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18th September 2008 at 7.00 pm (Parent Forum AGM)