

Gracemount High School

Parent Council Minutes

Monday 1st September 2014, 7.00pm

1. Welcomes, introductions and apologies.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

3. Report from Chair

4. Report from Treasurer

5. Report from Head Teacher

- Proposals For Future Parents Meetings

6. Proposals for future parent meetings

7. Issues from

- Staff

- Pupils

8. Date of Next Meeting

Present:

Steven Harold Chair

Kevin McCabe Deputy Chair

Ken Gregor Elected Member

Susan Gill Treasurer

Louise Sinclair Acting Head Teacher

Iain Hutchison Depute Head Teacher

Heather Livingston Staff Member

Lesley Eaglesham Parent Member

Michelle Wright Parent Member

Hussein Ezzedine Parent Member

Lynne Sinclair Parent Member

Morgan Smith Student Member

Cody Cunningham Clerk

Norma Austin Hart Labour Councillor

Keith Robson Labour Councillor

Bill Cook Labour Councillor

Nick Cook Conservative Councillor

1. Welcomes, Introductions and Apologies:

- Steven Harold was introduced as the newly elected Chair of the Parent council.
- Louise Sinclair was introduced as the acting Head Teacher
- Ken asked for everyone to introduce themselves as there was new people present at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

- No amendments needed.

3. Report From Chair:

- Steven handed out booklets entitled 'Parents as Partners' to the parents. This is a guide given to parents in the parent council.
- The parents that were present were asked to stay behind to prepare interview questions for the Head Teacher position.

B) Neighbourhood Planning:

- Elected Members are going to meet with Head Teachers and Parent Councils and hold a meeting at the end of September to discuss how to cope with Community Development. The proposed date for this meeting is the 30th of September.
- New housing in the area is likely to cause a student roll problem over the next few years and parents and schools need a long term plan to cope with the rising number of students. GP practices will also be negatively affected by the new homes.
- Castlebrae High School is intended to become a specialist Science Centre so this may result in an increased roll.
- Gracemount High School was designed to hold up to 640 pupils if the spacing is used efficiently and creatively. It is estimated that in 5/6 years, the school roll could rise significantly and currently, the school does not have the capacity to hold such numbers.
- Lesley said that at the South Neighbourhood Meeting, there was little knowledge and awareness about what was happening with the Development Plan.

4. Report from Treasurer:

- There is currently £1342.43 in account. Susan received an invoice from the council that totalled £800.
- Susan said she would send an email to Heather outlining the criteria for the funding and Heather said she would send an email out to staff about funding.
- New goal posts were suggested for funding as they are damaged. However, it is unclear whether AMY would cover the cost or whether it would need to be paid for internally.

5. Issues from:

Staff:

- No issues reported.
- Heather replaced Chris Hume as head of Pupil Council.

Students:

- Morgan said the Pupil council met and they had complaints about the fizzy drinks ban but both parent and pupil council are in support of the ban.
- The requests to re-paint the student toilets and the P.E changing areas have been dealt with - these were painted over the summer.
- Susan asked for a yearly plan from the Pupil Council.

6. Head Teacher Report:

- Sadly, Allan Drain passed away during the summer. The school will organise a tribute to him through the Charities Committee. His funeral was well attended and a great tribute to him.
- Robbie McDonald, a third year pupil, sadly recently passed away. The school has held assemblies and offered psychological services to offer support to the 3rd year students. A tribute has also been discussed.
- During summer, there was a litter complaint letter sent to the school. Louise held an assembly to remind pupils about dropping litter around the area and sent a response to the letter.
- Confident Parent Meeting/workshops are being offered on Wednesday evenings. Parent Council representation would be supportive. Steven said he would go to one of the meetings.
- The pupil roll number is currently 618.

A) Exam Results

- This year's grade attainment was good and the National 5 courses were successful.
- Some very good practice in school e.g. Graphic communication was a tri level class and all A's except one C and the Computing and History results were also extremely positive.
- Exam certificates are being updates to include newly released National 4 qualifications.
- No pupil from Gracemount High School left without a Maths and English qualification: this is the first time this has happened.
- A new system called 'Insight' allows attainment comparison between schools but is not available until early September.

B) Proposals for Future Parents Meetings:

- Iain outlined aims to improve the Tracking Reports and raise the uptake of parents attending the parents meetings.
- Attendance to Parents Meetings is 45%-50%.
- Iain suggested that perhaps children should be given appointments with teachers rather than giving them the responsibility to get their own appointments. However, this would be logistically difficult.
- Alternatively, give the parents their children's teachers names and ask the parents to visit the teachers when they are free.
- The parents said that the appointment cards were pointless as the schedule was never followed.
- Iain suggested splitting up the report and the parents meetings up rather than them being given at the same time. This would allow parents to see the progress in their child.
- Feedback from parents suggested that they would like the meetings and reports separately and the numbering system was too confusing.
- Susan suggested a 'Session Booker'. This offers certain appointments at a certain place and would allow parents to prioritise what teacher they would like to see. It was also suggested that parents should identify what they want to talk to teachers before the meeting.
- Heather proposed the idea of teachers reporting the child's progress to the registration teacher and then the registration teacher telling the child's parent. However, this would make it difficult for parents to ask personalised questions about the feedback that was given.
- Iain said that it would be great if we could attract more parents to the Parent' Meetings and Parent Council meetings.
- Approaching parents who did not attend the Parents Meetings has met with limited success in the past.
- The S1 Parents Meeting will be the trial run for any new ideas and feedback will be welcomed.

7. Date of Next Meeting.

- The date of the next meeting is on the 3rd of November 2014.