



Grange Academy Parent Council AGM

Monday 4th October 2021
7pm Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Claire Bryson (Chair), Kirsty Clelland, Shirley Curran, Amanda McKinlay, Morag Ross, Sandra Mabon, Viv Lambert, Richard Crawford, Wullie Newlands Robert Johnston (Head Teacher), Elaine Crawford (DHT), Mary McKinnon (DHT)

Apologies : Alison Smith, Stephen Cowan (DHT), Sam McEwan, Sam Waddell

Claire welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting, to be approved at the next meeting 9th November

Chairperson End of Year Report – Claire Bryson

Report on the last 10 months

Since taking over in November, Kirsty & Amanda organised a Christmas Hamper Raffle which was a great success. Thank you, ladies.

At the beginning of the year, we were still dealing with Covid 19 and the impact that had on the school and the pupils.

The school did amazing work during this time making sure the pupils didn't fall too far behind. I would like to say another well done to Elaine and her team who provided a safe place for vulnerable children and key worker children at the beginning of the year. I know Andrew always felt safe when he came in.

We also had the SQA exams cancelled and was replaced by with the teacher assessment, which was hard for everyone to get used to. Mary did a fantastic job at coordinating that and the information she gave us was a lot more than I ever got from the SQA web seminars or any other meeting or seminars I was on.

The changes to the timetables that Stephen Cowan (DHT) had to do was fantastic work. The safety of the pupils always comes first and over the past 20 months it has been a lot of hard work, the school has made sure that the pupils and staff have been safe at school. So well done to Robert in organising this for the safe return of pupils. I know personally that Andrew appreciated all the hard work that you and the teachers did during this hard time.

Tonight, I will be stepping down as chairperson and will not be putting my name back in due to work commitments, I am hoping to join in the meetings and help out when I can. I would like to say thank you to the teachers for all their support and to thank the Samantha's for all their work as the secretaries. Both are also stepping down and away from the Parent Council.

I would also like to say thank you to you all for attending the online meetings. I would also like to remind you all that Covid 19 has not gone away and that it is still out there. We have to remember to stay safe.

Thank you

Appointments of Office Bearers

- **Chairperson** – Nominated Kirsty Clelland
Voted in by 1st Shirley Curran, 2nd Viv Lambert
- **Vice Chairperson** – Nominated Amanda McKinlay
Voted in by 1st Claire Bryson, 2nd Kirsty Clelland
- **Secretary** – No nominees
Pauline Patton offered her help, voted in by 1st Kirsty Clelland, 2nd Amanda McKinlay
- **Treasurer** – Nominated Shirley Curran & Richard Crawford
Vote cast amongst PC members: Shirley Curran 4 votes, Richard Crawford 1 vote
Agreed that Shirley Curran would be the new Treasurer.

Voting on of New Members

Pauline Patton voted onto the Grange Academy Parent Council.

Shirley Curran voted onto the Grange Academy Parent Council.

Kirsty Clelland asked Claire Bryson how do we, the Parent Council go forward with the current members of the Parent Council who have not been attending the meetings of the last year. Pauline Patton told the PC that a GDPR regulation should be in place. It was agreed that these forms will be issued to all members along with the PC Constitution where it states that members must attend minimum of 1 meeting per term.

Robert Johnson thanked all the new appointees for stepping forward to fill these rolls. He also thanked Claire Bryson for her time and support over the past year.

Head Teacher Report – Robert Johnstone

Staffing

- We welcome Mr Crosbie to Grange Academy as our new PT of English and Literacy
- Congratulations to Ms Katie Bonnar as the preferred candidate following interviews last Friday for the post of Acting PT PS (maternity cover for Mrs Quinn)
- We have advertised for a Teacher of Technical Education and a Teacher of Music

Pupil Leadership

- Head Captains: Weronika Srebro and Cameron Cairns
- Assistant Head Captains: Connor Bolton and Keira McNulty
- Captains: Usman Khan; Ewan McKinlay; Charlie Myszkowski; Rhys Keen; Leyla Dilaver; Amy Stewart; Lottie Lambert; Lois McCreadie; Hannah Henderson and Niamh Craig

Focus: Attendance

- Absent all day: Parent/carer call the school office in the morning to explain absence and for how long – or hand in a note

- Late to school: Sign in at the office and get a late slip which should be handed to class teacher who will amend the register
- Leaving school for an appointment: Bring in a letter to office first thing in the morning. Appointment permission slip will be issued
- Feeling unwell during the school day: With permission from teach, pupil goes to office. Parent/carer may be called to collect
- Leaving class for any other reason: Permission slip issued by class teacher

Focus: Uniform

- Pupils being 'encouraged' to keep up standards of uniform
- Sensitive approach
- Basic requirements
- Health & Safety
- Spot checks to gauge improvements
- Negative reaction from a few parents – advice from Parent Council?

Parent Council Response –

The general consensus from the Parent Council was one of support for the School and their approach regarding School Uniform.

Pauline Patton asked why it was that the pupils had to wear a shirt & tie and formal uniforms in High School? Her son was finding it uncomfortable when playing sports during his lunch hour in a shirt & tie.

Robert Johnston suggested that we let the current rollout of uniforms play out, this will allow the school to judge how things are going from the Parental and Pupil comments. Robert informed the PC that it had been 9 years since a consultation on school uniforms and perhaps this was something that should be revisited soon.

The school will look at this in the New Year.

Elaine Crawford informed the council that at the last consultation it was the Pupils that voted to wear the Shirt & Ties, perhaps this has moved on with the times, but it was absolutely not foisted upon the pupils. The pupils wanted to have two separate ties; it gave them a sense of different parts of the school: Junior/Senior.

Leavers Prom – Amanda McKinlay

Amanda McKinlay wanted to confirm with Robert Johnston that the school were definitely not going to organise this year's Leavers Prom, or would they be happy for Amanda to go ahead and organise this as previously discussed.

Robert has been told by EAC London Road not to make any bookings at the moment due to insurance issues experienced last year as a result of Covid 19.

Robert said he would be happy for Amanda to continue organising this if this is something that Amanda is happy to do. He said it was incredibly generous of Amanda offering to do this and that the pupils would be over the moon to start planning their Prom.

Robert asked Amanda to come into school to discuss this in more detail with the teachers who have previously organised the schools Prom.

Viv Lambert asked if the school's decision to not organise the Prom was a Grange Academy decision? She knows of another school in the Area (Loudoun Academy) that are organising their Prom. There is a pupil committee that has been set up and together with the school they are organising the Prom.

Robert said he will speak with Linda McAulay Griffiths and Scott Robertson at Loudoun Academy about this.

It was agreed that if the Parent Council were to organise the Leavers Prom that there would be a Senior Pupil Prom Committee created and the two would work together.

Pauline Patton asked Claire Bryson if the Grange Parent Council has any insurance for these kinds of events? Claire said she wasn't aware of any.

Pauline offered to take this on as an action point for the next meeting. She will investigate the various sites and report back to the council.

Richard Crawford too expressed concern if the Parent Council were leaving themselves open by not have Public Liability insurance in place.

AOCB

S1 Parents Night

Kirsty Clelland asked about S1 Parents Night.

Robert said that there is no word wither Parents Nights are going ahead at the moment.

Viv Lambert informed Robert that Annanhill PS are doing it via telephone, Robert said with the 7 telephone lines that would be very difficult.

The school are currently looking into doing this digitally.

Kirsty Clelland informed Robert that Loudoun Academy are currently doing this via Teams; 5 minutes with every teacher. Robert said that both the pupil and the parents would need to attend these meetings due to it being done via the pupils Teams account, the school will look into this further.

Face to Face Meetings

Pauline Patton asked about the next Meeting being Face to Face? The next Grange Community Council meeting taking place in November will be within the Grange Campus.

The school have been instructed by Linda McAulay Griffiths not to have Face to Face Parent Council meetings for the foreseeable due to the rising cases of Covid 19.

This will be reviewed by EAC London Road in a few weeks' time.

Pauline is conscious that by having the meetings online, this has allowed some parents to attend meetings that previously haven't been able to, due to childcare issues.

Pauline asked if and when we do get back to Face to Face meetings, is there an option to have audio visual rooms to allow the council to do both Face to Face and digital meetings?

Robert told the PC about a Science Lab that is set up with a camera and speakers that would allow this to happen. That is something we can look forward to once we get the green light to do this.

Thank you to Claire Bryson

Kirsty Clelland said "A huge thank you for taking on the role of Chair this year, it's possible been the most stressful time for anyone on a parent council or even in education with all the Covid 19 limitations that have been going on. It's been quite stressful, and we really appreciate you taking on that role. Thank you very much"

Shirley Curran and **Richard Crawford** both thanked Claire.

Cabinet Paper

Shirley Curran informed the PC of a new Cabinet Paper about Space Standards that is being presented to the council on Wednesday.

Kirsty Clelland will send the PC members the link.

- Wullie Newlands joined the meeting at 19.58

Closing of the Parent Council AGM

Robert Johnston said “I want to stress how important the Parent Council is to the Head Teacher and the Senior Management Team. As a bedrock for support and a sounding board for advice, the Parent Council at Grange Academy has always given me that challenge as well as the sound advice that I have looked for. We have heard it here tonight; we have some outstanding talent here and I really thank you for offering that service to Grange Academy! Thank you”

Claire thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Finished at 20.08

Next meeting Tuesday 9th November 7pm Zoom