

Grange Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 10th January 2022 via Zoom @ 19.00hrs

Attendees

Kirsty Clelland, Pauline Patton, Shirley Curran, Amanda McKinlay, Viv Lambert, Claire Bryson, Gillian Crawford, Stephen Cowan, Nicola Newlands, Elaine Crawford, Robert Johnston, Alicia Clyde

Guests

Lee Cardow, Cheryl Taylor, Claire McKeown, Claire Caldwell Knox, Jennifer Stewart, Jane Frost

Apologies

Tom Cook, Sam Wood (guest), Morag Ross, Richard Crawford

Approval of previous minutes

Minutes – 3rd November 2021 – Amanda McKinlay

Shirley Curran

Outstanding actions reviewed and updated – see Actions Spreadsheet

HT Report

Mr Johnston's retirement has been announced and he will leave Grange Academy at Easter. He will greatly miss the school when he leaves to pursue other interests. The Parent Council offered our thanks to Mr Johnston for his leadership since 2014 as HT.

This is an exciting time in Education both locally and nationally with many inter-related challenges ahead such as: reforms to the national assessment system (SQA), changing role of Education Scotland, further development of the curriculum, how we support our young people in greatest need here on Grange Campus, increasing Campus roll and, of course, capacity issues here on our Campus. All of these exciting challenges lie ahead of our school community as we continue on a trend of improved attainment and achievement.

The recruitment process will begin shortly with an advert and our Parent Council will play an important role in the selection process for the new HT.

- **Staffing**

- We have been very fortunate to begin the New Year on a healthy footing regarding our staffing. While many schools across the country, and indeed EAC, are struggling to cover classes due to COVID related absences, we have been very fortunate indeed. Please note however, that this is a very fragile situation and we have contingency plans in place should they be required in the future.

Other staffing news:

- Technical: Mr D Baird (full time, permanent);
 - Art & Design: Mrs J McKenzie (maternity cover for Mrs G Lennox);
 - Social Subjects: Miss S Ramage (backfill for Miss Bonnar); Mr C Mann (long term supply);
 - Music: Mr S McArthur (full time, permanent);
 - Modern Languages: Mr Wilson (PT) will be retiring at Easter. Recruitment process is underway to appoint his successor
- **Prelims**
 - Assessments began on Friday and got off to a smooth start despite the weather!
 - Thanks to Mrs McLean for her meticulous and efficient organisation of this very important block of assessments.
 - **Diary Dates**
 - Thanks to Mr Cowan for producing a very easy to read school calendar!
Some important dates:
 - S2 Reports: 25th January
 - S4 Parents Evening: 9th February (*virtual*)

PEF

- There is currently an underspend of £24 765 as a result of staffing issues, (unexpected retiral of Home Link Worker; difficulty in recruiting a Classroom Assistant)
- This money can be 'carried forward' into new financial year where it could be used to offset staffing costs (March – June). We are also exploring the possibility of extending the temporary contract of our additional PT Pupil Support who is currently focusing on non-attenders / period truancy.

Study Leave

Parents should call in to the office and notify the office if pupils are staying at home to study.

Prom

116 S6 pupils have paid deposits to date.

26 staff have expressed an interest in attending.

4 classroom assistants will attend to assist ASN pupils – school will pay the ticket cost for classroom assistants.

£1160 has been paid to the PC bank account from deposits collected via parentpay

Remainder of spaces will now be opened up to S5 leavers, KC asked for clarity on S6 christmas leavers as one pupil had made contact with PC re being in this position. – to be discussed offline. **(Action taken)**

Fundraising

KC offered her thanks for the help and support with the 12 days of Christmas - £954 raised.

Special thanks to Mr Adams for his daily draws and recording these.

Looking at a possible easter event, sadly Christmas concert could not take place, is there any possibility of having something like this outside later in the year?

Welcome any other suggestions for raffles or fundraising – please feel free to share any ideas.

Treasurers Report

Online banking and bank card now in place. Protocol also drawn up with authority of 2 other office holders required to make payments.

Invoices are retained and attached to the spreadsheet.

Prom funds in account £1160 - £300 was paid to Park Hotel from PC funds now reimbursed to PC leaving Prom funds of £860.

Final cost of tickets TBC depending on DJ/Décor costs etc

£1197.71 in PC account (not including Prom funds)

Prefect badges - £100 spend was agreed in 2020 still to be paid to school, PC also agreed to cover cost of 2021 prefect badges.

AOCB

KC – Can barista suite be used as a breakfast club or enterprise project offering drinks and healthy breakfasts? Links with leadership, mentoring, business planning, barista skills, H&S, food technology etc.

Could we reach out to local business to ask for support?

Mr Cowan to take forward **(Action taken)** and investigate options and scope. Reference to Linlithgow High School and Loudoun Academy

Strengthening links with local primaries – share knowledge of meetings for parents to attend as guests. PP to share meeting details with Primary Parent Councils, also ask them to share Grange Academy FB page. **(Action Taken)**.

Building a QA / FAQ page on Grange Website for parents of P7 pupils making transition this year. EC happy to look at this, help and support also offered from Cheryl Taylor and Kirsty Clelland – do we reach out to other Primary PC Chairs to get involved and collate questions centrally from their parents? **(Action Taken)**

Meeting Closed @20.35hrs

Next meeting Tuesday 8th February 2022 online.