

Grange Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 8th February 2022 via Zoom @19.00hrs

Present –Kirsty Clelland (KC) Chair, Amanda McKinlay (AM) Vice Chair, Richard Crawford (RC) Secretary, Shirley Curran (SC) Treasurer, Morag Ross, (MR), Fiona Sanderson (FC), Nicola Newlands (NN), Elaine Crawford(EC) Depute Head, Stephen Cowan (StC) Depute Head, Audrey Brotherston (AB) Depute Head

Apologies – Mr Johnston Head Teacher, Viv Lambert, Alicia Clyde, Pauline Patton Secretary

1. Previous Minutes Approved – by SC, seconded by EC

Outstanding actions reviewed and updated – see Actions Spreadsheet

Prelim Results - concern raised re results from PC members. The results were lower than maybe expected in certain subject areas.

StC advised that it is not unusual for Prelim results to be lower at times for a variety of reasons. The prelim diet is not a replica of the May exam diet and pupils will be undertaking a large amount of assessment within a very short period of time. In addition, prelim assessments often indicate next steps in learning and create an action plan for the remainder of the course. At this stage staff remain aspirational and in many situations may encourage pupils to try the prelim before making a final decision on course level for the final exam diet. This may result in lower cohort average scores however we would prefer that pupils are given every opportunity to make an evidence based decision on their pathway. Finally, due to the presentation size, prelim gradings do not benefit from any grade boundary adjustments which would compensate for where a prelim paper has not performed as intended across the cohort.

Overview of the next few months:

Post prelim – within classes results will be discussed with the pupils individually around strengths and weaknesses and plans developed.

At staff in-service next week – staff will spend the whole day on SQA and will undertake a Health Check on their Senior Phase classes. From this, PTs will then meet with Senior Leaders to look at learner attainment and pathways.

Supported study programme will run from February through until Easter. This will be shared via the school app.

Parents are looking for help with encouraging their children after poorer results in certain areas. AB will share information via the school app to support parents and carers.

Easter School will run for one week (week beginning 4th April 2022) – booking will open shortly.

Concern noted around pupils who have told us that they didn't study for their Prelims. The maths department are going to change the way they are doing things, they are going to increase homework with twice a week consolidation targeting key areas of course..

S5/S6 Reports going out next week, it was suggested Reports to go out before Prelims, this is something we can review next year.

Letter to go to parents on the back of prelim results to advise of actions discussed tonight would be useful.

AB to look at utilising the Senior Pupils to share their experiences with exams with younger students could prove useful. It was really important for pupils to know that it's not too late to make improvements from results achieved at Prelim to what they can achieve in the actual exams.

P7 Transition

The P7 Transition had moved on significantly – nearly all ASN/transition meetings are done.

We have asked all the associated Primary Schools to put out onto their apps asking all Parents and pupils from the P7 year groups to download the Grange Academy App, The Transition team have started to use the school app with regards to getting information out to the P7 Parents.

The Microsoft Teams calls have went well, pupils are asking great questions.

Next week, Mark Dixon from the Guidance Team will be talking to the P7s and then we will go onto the different departments around the school.

Regarding Parents/Carers we have decided to have 3 separate calls, dates for these will be put out ASAP. This is on the back of the Parent Councils recommendations from last year, we are hoping this will give Parents/Carers more input. This was great feedback from the PC. Thank you.

Tracey McBride, PT Transitions, has put out the form asking pupils to let us know details of siblings (house groups and classes), friends (the kids regarded this a priority).

We are currently expecting it to be above 240 requiring 8 classes and we are hoping to have the class lists ready earlier this year. This would possibly allow us to have the pupils up to the school in their house groups.

Question raised around capacity with 8 classes, does this create a problem if there are new people moving into the area, does this mean that the school is at capacity? - Capacity is a major issue, this will be on the agenda for our new Campus Head to address.

Head teacher Report by EC in Mr J's absence

Staffing – English teacher Kate Grant had got well deserved promotion to PT at Prestwick Academy. We have advertised to fill that position but to date we haven't had any applications.

Covid Cover – this is tricky – we still have staff who are testing positive with Covid, we must address cover each day. Things are beginning to improve, however.

Break and Lunch – this had been spilt due to Covid. The Primary have now had an extension of free school lunches up to P5 therefore, we have had to make an adjustment to BGE pupils re morning break – Period 1 and 2 – Break at 10.25-10.40 – Seniors will remain 11.15-11.30am. The reason for the split in times is down to campus capacity.

Lunch – there will be no spilt lunch – Lunch will be for all between 1.10-1.55pm. This to facilitate organising the Assembly Hall. The authority has been looking at special flooring and 18 tables for the Assembly Hall. This will be for the Senior Phase pupils with BGE pupils eating out in the Street Area. This will go out on the app on 15th.

An outside serving area was discussed – there had maybe one in the past?. There was a servery area before, but the school wasn't sure if they would go back to using this. Mr Johnson was in discussions regarding this.

PEF – Requested HR to extend Hollie Marshall's acting Principal Teachers post. The Parent Council had commented at previous meetings how effective Hollie's temporary post had been on the Campus as a whole. The school is awaiting a decision.

Young People

AB thanked the council for giving her the opportunity to come along and represent the Young People of Grange Academy, and how the council will allocate some of the funds that has been raised.

SC I am looking for guidance from the PC tonight with regards to what limits of spend and what we want to do as a Parent Council. We would prefer Items that will be long lasting. Used for the benefit of most. We need to think about the parameters of how we spend that money through the school. Rather than spending money on a group of pupils going on an experience, would it be better to bring people into the school to widen that experience to a broader range of pupil year groups?

I am hoping that other Parent Council members tonight can give their opinions on the parameters we should put in place.

RC I think the money should be broken into so reasonable sized chunks and perhaps have 3 or 4 associated projects to support the kids. We don't actually know what the kids won't themselves and won't know till tomorrow. So I don't think we should be overly prohibitive about how we set it out but obviously making it something that can retain values in the school and not just for the next six months and further abroad spectrum from each for the whole school, so maybe give them some sort of examples like PE kit or stuff for musical instruments but obviously some of that's already been pushed before so, I think it's about listening to the children and they'll maybe tell.

KC Suggested, perhaps the pupils need to go round the faculties and try to get a feel of what each faculty would like or could benefit from, they could then narrow that down and then perhaps come to the Parent Council with a bid? Is that a way to go forward?

SC I think that's a very positive thing, to get a wide spectrum from departments as possible and to be aware we have spent money on other departments but it doesn't mean that we won't spend on them again if we think that's most useful in resources. One of the things I am keen to do is get that voice heard, because the money is raised by the parents for the pupils. Most parents would agree they would want "Best Value".

AB brought up student involvement - - engaging with them – speaking to pupils – like real life decision making

SC advised that there was approximately 3k in the bank and we could consider spending 1k on between 3-5 projects. That £250-350 was earmarked for prefect badges.

Finance – Treasurer Report

Discussed and agreed by majority vote that £250 would be the minimum to remain in the PC bank account. It was also agreed that £200 would go towards the Pupil bids, with some leeway if there was money left over.

In bank to date - £2922.91– with an expenditure of £124.80 on prefect badges.

Prom

Meeting last night, it will be S6 only in attendance – of which 31 have still to pay. Subgroups have been formed, food tasting, Music, Pre Prom Decorations, sponsorship.

Trying to get funding for yearbook and sponsorship – We have had our 1st business donation of £100 by ATV and the legalities of a just giving page is currently being discussed with HR.

Other Business

Residential trips

Confirmed that the Head of Education has permitted residential trips again but were to be approved places and only in Scotland. All insurances have to be covered by the establishments and not EAC.

Drop of Zones

KC emailed all the HT on the Campus asking them to speak to members of staff about parking in the Drop of Zones. Parents are struggling to pull into the Drop of Zone areas in the morning due to the number of places that have been taken by members of staff. Councillor Cook and KC have been involved with Kerr Chalmers at EAC Roads about parents parking on the Yellow Zig Zag lines and double yellow lines outside the Grange Avenue gates. Parking Attendants have been in force, moving parents on. We have also asked if all the Yellow lines could be repainted.

Vandalism

Issue of damaged boys' toilets raised. Advised that this is likely to be a significant cost and inconvenience – no precise date when they will be reopened. There are other toilets the pupils can use.

Other toilets on campus are not locked and toilet cards were available to pupils who need them. Mitie are working out the cost of the Vandalism.

School of Football

Question raised with regards to school of Football pupils. Parents had high expectations for their children in both football and studies. Concern had been raised over comments that staff had lower expectations for school of football pupils. This should not be the approach – the school has the same high expectations for these pupils and for them to demonstrate all the values of the school. The school has always promoted this.

After school clubs/activities

Alicia and SC have been working with this project. We have been working on some additional questions, once finalised they will be shared with the PC and feedback would be welcomed.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Next Meeting will be held Wednesday March the 9th 2022 at 7pm