

TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2022 @ 6:30pm by Zoom
GREENWOOD ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, S Johnson – Chairperson, C McKinlay – Secretary, C Kennedy – Science Faculty Lead, Justin Jones - School Captain & 5 Parents/Carers

Apologies: Louise Mills, Parent

	Action
<p>1. Welcome and Happy New Year – S Johnson Susan welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Apologies for late start due to a few technical issues. Parent/Carers introduced themselves - Sharon, Gemma, Tracy, Joanne, Paul, S Wheeler. Justin, School Captain. Catherine, Secretary. Caroline Kennedy, Faculty Lead for Science and parent. Katy Hegarty, Head Teacher.</p> <p>2. Treasurer Report – S Johnson No treasurer currently. Fees for Secretary due £100 for February & March. Susan Johnson still to be reimburse £50 for G Dunker retirement voucher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Balance £1,437.24 ➤ Role of Treasurer – Treasurer in charge of finances, helping submit paperwork for funding (teachers offer support). Not a lot to be done just keeping the records. C Kennedy thanked for kindly offering to audit the books again this year. Joanne and C Kennedy offered to step up and be signatories. <p>3. Parent Council Chair Report– S Johnson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thanks for Christmas Toys & Hampers and Christmas Gift Appeal – Greenwood appeal ongoing. Should we contribute again to this? Joanne thought was a great idea and going forward PC should look to raising funds for the school. Joanne used to be on PTA for primary school. Anything we can think of as PC (Bingo Night, Auction – ideas like that). Susan agreed with this. Have a think and if anyone has ideas please come forward. Joanne asked Justin if these ideas would work with school tying in with PC. Justin wondered with Covid restrictions and cost of the school day how this could work. Shaunie (on School Council) had a meeting with the Senior Leadership Team about “Poverty Awareness”. Susan welcomed Joanne’s enthusiasm and offers of help. K Hegarty thought as some events are outdoors linking in later in the year when weather improves would be better. She will link in with leadership team and any funds raised would come to the school. Good to get heads together and support each other. ➤ May Meeting and AGM – Susan Johnson stepping down after ➤ Thank you Card from Mrs Dunker for her retirement gift and card, she greatly appreciated it. ➤ Parent Council Chairs Meeting 2/2/22 ➤ Parent Council Chair Role – had a lot of support from the school in her role. School organises all the running of the meetings. A lot of contact with PC Secretary, Head Teacher and Treasurer. 	<p>Parent Council</p>

Also been able to chat with K Hegarty and to represent the school on panels for interviews at Senior leadership level. Susan found these interesting and a big responsibility. Prior to becoming the chairperson she represented PC at different events. Pre-Covid School were very good at involving the PC at concerts.

Been attending a lot of Connect meetings that informed her of the role she is fulfilling. These meetings provided practical help.

If anyone looking at taking on the position information is available from previous Chairperson and support given by the School. Been great fun and would recommend it, any questions please ask. Sharon asked what happens if no one volunteers. This happened previously and K Hegarty stood in until S Johnson started. Head Teacher works with Parent Council but PC meetings should always be run by parents. Parents should take ownership of it. Joanne thought Parent Council very different to PTA in a primary school but may consider it and will talk to Susan about it.

4. Head Teacher Update – K Hegarty

- Will share the PowerPoint presentation on the blog because she is working on her phone and unable to share due to the technical issue tonight.
- SQA S4-S6 announcement for every school in Scotland – modifications made to the courses to reflect Covid recovery. Still on pathway to exams at end of this year April to June. Support package for young people with revision support for all subjects. There is a link on the PowerPoint presentation that explains the March revision. An example is NAT5 English – advanced notice of content assessed in the exam. This support to reflect the time lost due to Covid by pupils and teachers. When known, lists shared by Class teachers. Another example is Advanced Higher English – study notes allowed into the exam. Some subjects will have a study guide saving time spent on studying what is not required. Publication week beginning 7th March.
- Questions on Senior Phase – will there be study leave? Answer – Head Teachers get together and decide so that there is consistency across schools. S4 do not have Highers therefore a provision put in place for pupils to allow them to come into school. Might be slightly different this year. Staffing problematic at the moment. NAT4 pupils are part of S4-S6. K Hegarty will let parents know what has been decided. Ms Greenlees will put a letter out to all S4-S6 parents/carers.
- **Staffing** – information update:
 - Miss Cairney, Business studies retires at February weekend
 - Mr Orr, Maths moving on end of this week
 - Miss Taylor, HE moving on tomorrow
 - Mr Neil starts Monday 7th February - Year Head for S3, possibly S6. K Hegarty might keep S6 meantime.
 - Mr Morton starts in Pupil support on 21st February – particular focus on learning hub.
 - Vacancy in English since June 2021. Re-advertised many times – no applicants and no one to interview. Across Scotland difficult to recruit.

Action

- Probationer Teachers will be able to apply from 17th February for the August new session. Probationer teachers can only teach for a certain number of hours. If not filled from earlier date probationers can apply August 2022. Trying different methods to attract English teachers. For example changing English to Media Studies.
- Miss Fullerton currently filling English since her return from secondment. She will return to Guidance soon. Mrs Doig will also help in English.
- Teacher off on maternity leave in Computing. Been advertised several times, no one applied. Consider business studies teachers.
- Maths post advertised
- Pupil support post – focus on learning hub
- Covid Recovery – Scottish Government gave additional funding for 2.5 Covid recovery teachers. Andrew McClelland announced more funding 2 weeks ago. Another 2.5 Covid recovery teachers advertised. A teacher in Maths, PE and a 0.5 teacher in Music as a result.
- Home Economics post advertised - 2nd time out. If not able to recruit Senior Phase prioritised. Another PE teacher may be brought in to keep post under the umbrella of HE. Plans in place if unable to recruit.
- S1, S2 and S3 had to move to remote learning recently. With insufficient teachers to cover classes this decision had to be made. Senior Phase not affected as they are working towards exams. Other schools have sent Senior Phase home. Had to look at Broad General Education and tried to increase number of teachers. Teachers teach 22 hours per week with rest of time allocated to preparation. This is the issue with cover classes. We have as many supply teachers in as we can. Very difficult to plan for on a day-to-day basis. Some teachers off long term, some have short term Covid absences. Taken an S1 register class away and dispersed them over other classes. Had to condense Enrichment S2 classes. Mrs Newbigging helping out with PEF funding in Greenwood instead of going to Primary Schools.
- No year groups this week or last had to work online at home. Number of teachers absent decreasing.
- Andrew McClelland opened up the “closed” list for Supply Teachers for the foreseeable future. This allowed a music teacher to apply.
- Senior Leadership Team have used their management time to take extra classes.
- Sharon Johnston and A McClelland sourced 9 teachers from probationer learning academy and secondment, this has really helped.
- Joanne thinks some parents do not understand the extent of the problems.

K Hegarty answered any parental complaints that have come by bullet pointing the actions school has taken. Had to justify sending pupils home to work online to A McClelland and he had to justify to Councillors. She will continue to work through it and look for solutions. Staff in the building are working as hard as possible. Hoping things will improve over next few weeks and she will think of how she can communicate all of the above to parents/carers. Joanne asked if Parent Council could help in any way by sharing through word of mouth. K Hegarty thought she could make a small video clip of what has been put in place and why to update parents/carers. P MacDougall, Depute Head Teacher spends hours completing the jigsaw of cover timetables.

- Curriculum Review 2019. Curriculum should never remain the same and should always be reviewed.
 - ❖ Made changes by increasing subjects to 7 from 6.
 - ❖ Made changes to BGE (Broad General Education)
 - ❖ Consultancy phase for consideration and discussions about bringing back in 10 min registration period for accurate recording, giving out notes, talking about skills. Same teacher would see pupils every morning and provide consistency, ironing out issues and providing support. Currently 33 periods a week. This is on the Agenda for Faculty Leaders to discuss this Friday. Everyone will be consulted about this as part of Covid recovery and changing the curriculum. Different start/finish times of day would be required totalling 50 minutes. Means if taking a period out where would it come from? Certain things can't be taken out. There are arguments both ways for this for example does it involve young people losing a qualification if it affects their subject area. One of the benefits would be tightening up on wearing of uniform and having these conversations during registration.
- S Johnson passed on heartfelt Parent Council thanks to everyone in the school for all their hard work, our young people's education is so important.

5. Any other Business & Any Questions

Question: Sharon – if child off with Covid and not getting any work. Teachers not providing the work on Glow.

Answer: K Hegarty will put out a prompt about homework and additional support which should be on google classroom and satchel one. Advice always to contact Guidance Teacher if no work there. Guidance Teachers then email specific subject teachers to make sure work is on for the pupil.

Question: Sharon – on behalf of another parent. Litter drive query.

Answer: Due to start litter drive January/February. Campaign starts 6-8 weeks out in the Community. Fixed penalty notices will be handed out.

Action

If unable to pay they will organise for them to do litter pick. Greenwood is next school after Auchendarvie for this litter drive.

When out collecting any Parent Council members free to help please do. Joanne is part of Irvine Clean-Up Crew so said she will be more than happy to help.

Sharon and Lesley are also part of this Crew; they have many volunteers who live locally. The back fields were cleaned up.

Eco focus on twitter at moment. Joanne shared this on the page, 5 bags of litter collected. K Hegarty explained North Ayrshire Council have to do an audit before work begins on the litter drive then one after it is finished to see if there are lasting improvements.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 1st March 2022 @ 6:30pm by Zoom.