

**TUESDAY 2nd November 2021 @ 6:30pm by Zoom
GREENWOOD ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, S Johnson – Chairperson, C McKinlay – Secretary,
& 5 Parents/Carers

Apologies: J Matthews, D & H Gilbert, C Kennedy, Sam Wood

	Action
<p>1. Welcome and introductions – S Johnson S Johnson welcomed all to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. S2 parents evening tonight therefore some apologies received.</p> <p>2. Formal Members of GAPC – S Johnson The following year groups are required for representatives on the Parent Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 for S1, 1 for S3, 1 for S4, 2 for S5 and 1 for S6 <p>If these positions aren't filled then they will be sought from wider school parents/carers. Apart from having voting rights as representatives there will be no other work involved. All parents/carers are welcomed to attend the Zoom Parent Council meetings.</p> <p>SQA Meeting – S Johnson The link for the "Consultation in change in Education Scotland" was tweeted to all members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If interested in Education Scotland please get involved and put your views forward. Connect is a way for everyone to see what is available and a good resource for all parents. ➤ Ken Muir welcomed options at a recent meeting for parents. He met with teachers, education staff and pupils. One parent said she joined the meeting and thought it was a very valuable opportunity to engage and thought Ken wanted to encourage feedback from parents. S Johnson said the meetings are open and flexible and she was impressed by Ken. Ken was a former Geography Teacher at Greenwood. ➤ How to sculpt the future for next 20 years. This is an ongoing review looking at the exam system and curriculum for excellence. Scoping groups are going to different countries to gather information on how their education and exam system works. ➤ PISA rankings – this is the standardisation from exit point from school. All exam systems are different. Results are compared and countries learn from each other. Some countries are stronger than we are. Pupil ability to answer questions at different stages looked at. She advised everyone interested to go to the website and see what is being proposed. <p>3. Stick with Zoom – S Johnson Meetings will stick with Zoom system at the moment as majority find this the easiest. TEAMS used in school for reasons of safety. K Hegarty not sure at the moment whether future meetings will be held in the school building or whether they will be held on TEAMS.</p>	

4. Frequent Fire Alarms – S Johnson/K Hegarty

- S Johnson spoke with fire watch commander she knows socially. He recommended the community action team. They would support the school by reminding pupils where the fire engine should be instead of coming to false alarms at Greenwood. Many other schools have had call-outs. Fire Officer position for schools has been cut and there is a correlation with this and the increased problem.
- K Hegarty shared her screen. She explained that they are aware that a social media link up by groups at Greenwood and Irvine Royal had been at the back of our recent fire alarms; a competition to see how many could be set off.
- Each of the pupils identified as the culprits faced consequences and have been excluded from school. They have also been charged by our Campus Police Officer. The last thing a pupil should want is to leave school with a police record.
- She has given clear messages about the impact on our local community, Health & Safety and the disruption to learning to all. We had 3 fire alarms in one day recently. After 1st alarm the pupil responsible was taken home by Social Work Team, made way back into the building then set it off for a 2nd time, then came back for a 3rd time.
- Last week the pupil responsible for that alarm was standing with K Hegarty when the Fire Fighters came out the building. They had very strong words with that pupil and outlined the consequences. That day the only fire engine that covers the Dreghorn area was at a house fire in Troon. The fire engine that attended the false alarm at Greenwood had to come from Kilwinning.
- Pupils involved will have a follow-up from Fire Scotland and also at their PSE classes.
- A smoke alarm was set off in the boys' toilet about 3-4 weeks ago at the back of the school. They lit toilet paper and there had to be a fire safety visit for 3 hours checking all parts of the building.
- All Greenwood's procedures and risk assessments have been checked.
- Another NAC school had a number of alarms set off.
- Parents have been sent a letter about these fire alarm incidents.
- S Johnson said she was glad lessons can be kept going despite the interruptions and acknowledged that students wanting to study have had the information from K Hegarty.
- K Hegarty said she has responded to the concerns raised by parents/carers.
- Pupils can put their coats on but can't take bags for safety reasons. They can't go back into the building to retrieve coats after the alarm goes.
- One parent asked, going forward, would parents be fined? K Hegarty replied that there is less appetite for fining parents now since "cost of the school day". Parents were told the financial and human cost every time there is a fire alarm. The fire service have to attend other emergencies such as road accidents. Unfortunately, some parents of the pupils responsible haven't always responded in a supportive way and think there is an over-reaction. Hopefully a school and police record will deter in the future. K Hegarty said some pupils won't tell normally but it is noticeable they were coming forward quickly and CCTV also shows who is responsible. The response has been very quick in identifying those responsible.

5. IPayImpact – S Johnson/K Hegarty

- Went “live” 18th October.
- Facial recognition on hold, went smoothly at Greenwood but this wasn’t the experience in all schools. The 6 digit code will be used instead.
- Fusion App can be downloaded and used to pre-order meals.
- FAQ’s and leaflet will be re-issued.
- Any issues – email the address on the leaflet, they are good at responding.
- Cash transferred from ParentPay.
- A text message regarding payment cards went out to all parents/carers today. These payment cards can be used at paypoints.
- Greenwood has 2 separate queues in the Atrium. Pre-ordered food is in a bag with names on in one and the main queue is for hot food or food not pre-ordered.

6. Uniform Update – yellow/white – K Hegarty

Yellow is the answer. Senior ties which have white on them won’t be replaced. The next order she will make sure they are yellow.

7. Litter pick update – Irvine Times 26/11/21

- School has had a lot of bad press about littering recently.
L McDade said the Irvine crew can help in partnership with the school.
- K Hegarty said she was aware of the article and as part of the school community Campus Police will be involved (she is currently seconded to COP26). There has been input by Guidance Teachers at PSE classes. Willie Purdie and David Hammond came to the school to do a walk round as part of the “Obliterate Campaign”. The Campaign aims to Educate, Enable, Enforce.
They are currently working with Auchendarvie and another school. They will come to Greenwood around January/February for 6 weeks. Their campaign looks at educating pupils and working in partnership with schools and volunteering. Enforced £80 fixed fine for any pupil found littering. They letter parents where pupils identified from the cameras on their jackets. Positive footage that shows pupils putting litter in the bins will also result in a letter home. The route from one eating establishment had no bin and three particular areas showed where the littering is at its worst. They did an audit regarding extra bins and where they were needed. They will engage with eating establishments to see what is being given out to reduce the amount of litter that could be dropped. This is part of an “Environment Campaign” to see before and after. K Hegarty spoke to Councillor Larsson about this via email.
- S6 pupils already been out and did a litter pick a few weeks ago. They are looking at an improvement plan and want to do something on a bigger scale.
- Mr Soave said he lives opposite the Dairy and this littering issue has been going on for 10 years now.
- K Hegarty said she’s had suggestions from members of the public who want teachers to come out and supervise at lunchtimes. Senior Management Team supervise the Atrium at lunchtime and some teachers also volunteer although these numbers have reduced.

She explored the possibility of classroom assistants helping to supervise but this takes away their time for supporting the needs of pupils. We don't have members of staff free to go out into the community every lunchtime. She acknowledges that this is a real issue and not one that is easy to resolve but she is open to any ideas from Parent Council members. S Johnson said it is an endemic problem in Scotland.

8. Head Teacher Update – K Hegarty

- **SQA Appeals** – Greenwood only had 4 and none of them were upheld. They got the grade they were allocated. Huge thanks to J Greenlees in keeping parents informed and to staff who engaged in conversations in terms of evidence generated and sharing grades. A school of similar size to Greenwood had 59 appeals and none of these were upheld. This means the amount of moderation work done by teachers in Scotland has been very good.
- **SQA Arrangements** – no change. Working towards exams at end of April into May. Due to be another announcement in March. Senior phase Teachers conscious of capturing class evidence. Had a few initial discussions about prelims. Last year and year before no diet for this. Decision made regarding no study leave across North Ayrshire.
- Not at stage where we are allowed to have pupils in games hall for exams, they have to be in classrooms. Use double periods or chunk it up in marking schemes. At this stage more in favour of generating evidence when they are ready and not have an examination diet. Covid doesn't allow us to work towards that. More information will become available in next few weeks.
- **Covid-19** – continue with current measures, reviewed regularly. Allowed trips as long as they are risk assessed. No residential trips abroad due to insurance, pupils could become stranded. This is a NAC decision.
- Continue to give out huge amount of face coverings. SSTA said 100 masks a day were given out. At Greenwood this figure is nearer 1,000 a day. We are insuring pupils are wearing masks in classrooms. Tried to appeal to parents to have pupils bring in their own masks or keeping the one issued in the morning for the whole day. Trying to keep pupils as safe as possible with hand sanitizing continuing.
- **Parents Evenings** – reports issued with comments. More information available by contacting school or via email. New system called Parents Online Platform used. A lot of troubleshooting tonight for first time this is being used. Office staff did a lot of work behind the scenes and a huge thankyou to P MacDougall who does everything digitally. No doubt there will be teething issues but at 17:50 everything looked to be going smoothly. P MacDougall will come to future PC meeting to explain this new procedure. Whilst it's not the same as being in the same room it's second best seeing parents on screen and being able to communicate with them that way.
- **Staffing** – information update:
 - New teachers started - Mrs McNamara, English and Mr Taylor, Mod Languages
 - Mrs Dunker, Deputy Head Teacher (DHT) retires at Christmas
 - Vacancies – DHT, English, Computing, Art, Business Studies, Classroom Assistant
 - Mr Palmer retiring at Christmas. Mrs Cairney retiring in February.

Action

- Staff absences remain a daily juggle related to Covid and other things. Continue to do our best. Authority contacted this morning because it makes it problematic to deliver the curriculum. Some days better than others. Staff managed through Absence policy. This is a reflection of what schools are like at the moment. Although additional funding gave Greenwood 1.5 additional teachers when running with 14 staff absent the 1.5 is a drop in the ocean.
- **Teach Mindset** – working round S1 classes on a weekly basis. Focus on positive mindset. S5-S6 helping tutor some S1 pupils who are finding the transition more problematic. Conscious of anxiety around S4-S6 pupils for exam preparation. Staff helping by building resilience. This is part of Covid recovery and paid through PEF fund left over from last year. Team Mindset will be with us for 18 months. S Johnson attended one of the events running just after Covid and said it was a positive thing to take part in. She thought parents would find this beneficial. Plan is to link in with parents and help to support at home. John Paul Fitzpatrick is working across 7 schools. K Hegarty has known him for a number of years. Ross Brown showed S1 lots of football tricks. The first 5 classes had input today from the team Cameron Fulton is the third member of the team.

9. Treasurer’s Report

- Bank Account Balance – statements come to school at some point. £1,837.24 current balance. £100 going off for today’s and December meetings for Secretary Fees. Stand-in at next meeting for Catherine our Secretary.
- Funding Application – P MacDougall discussed at last meeting. Treasurer said she would take this on, nothing further on this at the moment from her.
- Signatory – need Sam, Treasurer to be a signatory as we only have two.
- Update from NPFS (National Parents Forum Scotland) requested from Sam as she is a Deputy.
- Cheque Book now held in school.

SW
SW

10. Any Other Business & Questions

Question: Lynn asked about exam preparation for pupils. Very important because pupils haven’t had exam experience. Can school find time to help and guide with study skills.

Answer: Feedback is time management, which is always an issue. K Hegarty will talk to Guidance and Faculty Leads about study skills through PSE. Different study methods between subjects, eg Maths and PE. Class teachers to give advice on how to study. Timed essays for example are difficult the first time but get better each time.

KH

Question: Kimberley asked about S1 Parents Evening.

Answer: S1 Parents Evening – 11th January 2022.

Action

The first S1 tracking report which will include a comment from Guidance Teachers will be issued mid November in school. A txt will be sent out to say it is in their bag. A further 2 Tracking Reports will be issued during the remainder of the session.

Question: D & H Gillbert received their child's (2nd year) Tracker Report last week – will there be a report card with comments from the teachers prior to picking subjects, or only Tracker Reports?

Answer: A further 2 tracking reports will be issued during the session, one of which will contain comments from teachers. Yes, there will be a report card prior to making choices. There will be another opportunity to engage with staff using the Parents Booking package for meetings.

11. Date of Next Meeting – 7th December 2021 @ 6:30pm by Zoom.