

TUESDAY 7th December 2021 @ 6:30pm by Zoom
GREENWOOD ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, P, MacDougall – Depute Head, S Johnson – Chairperson, E, Bradford – Secretary, & Parents/Carers

Apologies: Sharon Ledger & Paul Soave

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<p>1. Welcome and housekeeping – S Johnson S Johnson welcomed all to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.</p>	SJ
<p>2. Thanks to new members – S Johnson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked new members Justin Jones and Ethan Robertson who are S6 pupils. Audrey Ritchie, Welfare Rights officer. Philippa McDougall DHT and Erin Bradford for taking the meeting minutes in place of Catherine 	SJ
<p>3. Brief introductions – Young person’s year group – S Johnson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Justin Jones ➤ Introduced himself and thanked everyone for the invitation to the meeting. Justin issued apologies as he was at work and may have to leave the meeting however Ethan Robertson had all the notes and information required for the meeting. 	JJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ethan Robertson ➤ Ethan introduced himself and thanked everyone for the invitation to the meeting. Ethan apologised on behalf of the other two captains who were unable to attend the meeting. ➤ Ethan advised the S6 captains have been organising a trip to Arran as an improvement-planning event. Prize giving event is also in hand and posters have been put up around the school regarding the school values, mottos and behaviour. With Greenwood academy pupils being the face of the posters. ➤ Ethan also advised that suggestion boxes to focus on pupils having a voice has been discussed and has not happened as yet. ➤ The captains had an event in Sept with Mrs Dunker for voices of change. Plans have gone ahead from what was discussed. ➤ Remembrance Day – S6 pupils laid a poppy wreath at Irvine cross and the S6 pupils are wanting to be more active within the community. ➤ Newsletter – This will now have a pupil’s voice column and plans are in place to achieve better relationships with police force, fire and ambulance service. ➤ S6 event 20/12/21 Coffee Morning – This is a good opportunity to get together whilst being mindful of covid. ➤ Raffles and Quiz – Tickets will be sold over Christmas to raise funds for next years prom. ➤ Christmas Jumper Day ➤ S6 are also trying to bring S3 forward for mentoring to bring the school together 	ER
<p>4. Point from L Irvine re Senior Pupils – S Johnson</p>	

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<p>5. Audrey Ritchie – Welfare Rights Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Audrey thanked the members for inviting her to the meeting. Audrey advised that she will be the Welfare Officer within North Ayrshire School. This is newly funded projects. Audrey advised that welfare officers located in schools in Glasgow and other Local Authorities worked very well. ➤ Audrey will be working with families in North Ayrshire helping with the benefit system, money matters, completion of government application forms and support families. North Ayrshire have invested money into the new project. ➤ Audrey will also be promoting the new Disability benefit. ➤ Audrey can be contacted by email audreyritchie@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or phone 01294 310498 or mobile 07799075426. ➤ Audrey advised she is happy to answer questions. 	AR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Susan Johnstone followed Audrey’s introduction by asking if anyone had any questions. Audrey asked if there were any chat groups to advise the information? 	SJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katy Hegerty replied that these can be put on the school blog. 	KH
<p>6. Online Parents Evenings – P MacDougall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Philippa introduced herself and thanked everyone for the invitation. ➤ Parents evening will now be virtual via parents booking. So far there has been 3 successful nights and have received positive feedback from staff and parents. 2 admin staff have also contributed to the smooth running of these virtual meeting by working on to ensure any problems that may arise can be dealt with. ➤ S2 did not receive a parents evening, and everyone is aware of this. ➤ Some pupils may not have got all time slots, but this would have been the same had parents evening been face to face. ➤ S3 parents’ night is next week and S1 and S4 will be in the new year. ➤ Any staff that are absent or have set up problems, phone call meetings can also be set up. This system has been already used using phones, tablets and laptops. ➤ Q -Philippa asked the parent council members how their experience of the virtual parent’s night went. ➤ A - Leigh Ann advised she had no problems, and she has 2 kids and got logged on fine and had meetings with one teacher after another. Joanne advised that she felt 5-minute time slots was too short and she wanted to speak to all her children’s teachers however this not achievable, but she understands teachers are busy. ➤ A -Louise advised she had poor connections. 	PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie Haggerty advised that she appreciates that this way of working is different to parents evening S1’s would have received at primary, and they are aware of the pros and cons and it is a learning curve for us all in the new way of living and circumstances. Parents night would normally be in the atrium face to face. 	KH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Phillipa adds to frequently asked questions when feedback is received from Microsoft forms 	PM
<p>7. HT update – K Hegarty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>SQA exams</u> 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie advised there is no changes these as yet. Final exams will be April/May 2022 time. ➤ The assessments calendar will be shared tomorrow via satchel from Mrs Greenlees for S4 to S6. Assessments are to be completed in class time, preferably when pupils have double periods. ➤ If any child has 3 or more exams in the one day, they are to contact the school to advise. ➤ Katie advised that exams will take place in classes and not halls as of now however this may change. ➤ <u>House points</u> Katie advised there is no assembles or trips due to Covid guidelines being in place. House boards are to track all house points for each year. 	KH
<p>8. Treasurer's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Susan advised that Sam Wood has stepped down from being Treasurer and that they would be looking for a new treasurer soon if anyone was interested in taking Sam's place. ➤ The current balance in the account is £1737.24. ➤ Susan also advised that an email has been sent out to parent council members asking for donations between £50-£100 for the 2 Christmas appeals within Greenwood academy. ➤ Susan advised that £150 would be donated to each appeal. ➤ Katie advised that 38 identified boxes would be issued to families from the night before Christmas charity and 65 food hampers, identified by Guidance, would be issued. ➤ The school is linking with Audrey regarding payment to families to help with energy consumption over the holidays. ➤ 	SJ
<p>9. Any other Business & Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Katie has requested that any parents/guardians are to get in contact with Ali Duncan, Fiona Wylie, Guidance or Senior management team to share if yourself or know of anyone struggling financially. This will be dealt with in a discreet and confidential manner. <p><u>Christmas – Any other business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coffee morning is on 15/12/21 ➤ Christmas jumper day is 17/12/21 ➤ S1 to S2 activities in class is 21/12/21 ➤ S3 activities in class is 22/12/21 ➤ North Ayrshire Mindful for asking for money donations ➤ Miss Kennedy and Mr Kenny won the national STEM competition ➤ Senior maths challenge – 3 silver and 2 bronze. Top scores were Ethan Robertson and Thomas Chan. ➤ Fire alarms – Fire Scotland come to the school and have a catch with S1 and S3's about the impact of false fire alarms. So far this has achieved a welcomed response as there has been no new false alarms since. The campus policer officer is also working along side Fire Scotland to ensure alarms are not set off again. 	KH

- Staffing. Mrs Dunker and Mr Palmer are both retiring. Mr Neil will be the new S3 and S6 DHT.
- Vacancies. English department was closed with no applicants. Drama, computing (to cover mat leave), art, business studies, classroom assistants' vacancies are currently on the My Job Scotland.
- Staff absences are high and are not all covid related. This is across all schools and not just Greenwood

10. Date of next meeting – 1st February 2022 at 6:30pm by zoom

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