

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

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, S Johnson – Chairperson, C McKinlay – Secretary, C Kennedy – Faculty Lead for Science, Justin Jones (School Captain) & 6 Parents/Carers

Apologies: L Drysdale, J Matthews & G Stewart

	Action
<p>1. Welcome, thanks and introductions – S Johnson Susan welcomed all to the meeting, giving thanks for everyone’s time and company. Introductions – parents S Ledger, T Blackley, E Howie, L Mills, P Soave and L Hutchison (joining for the first time). C Kennedy (Faculty Lead for Science) S Johnson (Chairperson), J Jones (School Captain), C McKinlay (Secretary) and K Hegarty (Head Teacher)</p> <p>2. Treasurer’s Report – S Johnson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Balance £1,337.24 – S Johnson still owed £50. ➤ Signatories – C Kennedy to become additional signatory. ➤ C Kennedy happy to be new Treasurer, the paperwork is held in school so is easier for her to take this on. S Johnson thanked her for the offer and it was unanimously agreed. ➤ Cheques written to cover Secretarial fees. ➤ Books audited and fine by C Kennedy, she will get someone to sign them off. <p>3. Parent Council Chair Update – S Johnson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NAC Parent Council Chair Meeting 2/2/22. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census will be sent out and all encouraged to complete it. It’s about “Parent involvement” and “engagement”. • Health and Wellbeing opt-in census also being sent out which covers a wide range of topics, takes about 45 minutes to complete and is age appropriate. • SQA exams from A McClelland – K Hegarty covered this at the last meeting. Plan to go ahead with exams, some mitigations this year. • A McClelland covered Covid mitigations. In line with Scottish Government guidelines schools will be eased into the changes. ➤ Susan asked everyone to think about becoming the Chairperson when she has to stand down in May. ➤ If anyone would like a free copy of the Recipe Book compiled by the Mandarin Teacher in the Confucius programme let C McKinlay know. <p>4. Head Teacher Update – K Hegarty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Easing of Covid restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings no longer compulsory in classrooms but are in other areas. Masks still given out at School. Personal choice for pupils who still want to wear a mask in class. This information will be shared with all at Assembly. 	<p>CK</p>

- Hand sanitising and wiping down of desks still part of risk assessment.
 - School trips now allowed, apart from foreign visits due to insurance complications. A Blackpool trip has been organised, good to see staff wanting all this back for young people. Pupils can come up with ideas for example Alton Towers.
- Assemblies held for the first time next week. Strange for S2, their first assembly and they will be moving to S3 in June. Following topics covered:
- Re-visiting our School values and expectations. Values and expectations covered every week.
 - Preparation for exams the focus for S4, S5 and S6.
 - Participation, school clubs – trying to encourage pupils to take part at lunchtime and after school clubs. Handball, football, badminton and basketball some of the clubs up and running. Would encourage pupils to suggest a club if they are interested. A couple of S1 pupils asked for netball. If your child would like to make a suggestion tell them to talk to their Year Head or Guidance.
 - Health & Safety given as an update. New door system on bottom floor. Doors will lock after a particular time at interval and lunchtime. Doors will lock down at PE, Senior Leadership Team and office corridors. This happens in evenings when KA Leisure use the school building. The door outside the main office is open and everywhere else locked down. Pupils told not to use these areas.
 - Revisited wearing of school uniform. “Cost of the School Day” provided £5,000 to purchase uniforms and bags. A letter will come out explaining this. The way pupils look and how they represent themselves should be of the highest standard. If you know anyone who is struggling to buy uniform please let us know. We have new uniforms in a range of sizes. Please spread the message, we can help. Time has moved on and as a school we want to make sure standards are maintained.
- Revisited the importance of attendance at school. Tracking reports show parents/carers attendance level, anything below 90% is going to affect outcomes. Some pupils with particular needs and support are taken care of by “Team around the child”. With 70% attendance this reflects missing 47 days of school, this is significant. Reviewing attendance policy to see how to better manage that at school.
- Senior phase – 1st exam on 27th April – Higher and NAT 5 Geography. Exams start in Scotland on 26th April but we do not have any pupils sitting Politics or Latin. Decision still to be made by North Ayrshire Council as to when study leave starts. Teachers who have exams sometimes worry they’ve not seen the pupils during study leave. A refresher course may be offered just before the exams, information will come out about this.
- Supported study and attendance of it. Easter school will be run with mix of face-to-face and virtual depending on content
- E-Sgoil is a programme providing national “live lessons” running from 7-14 April, pupils can register. This is a great way to study, any questions can be posted. A great opportunity for our pupils to study courses at all different levels every night of the week. Sessions last for an hour. This information will be shared at 4th & 5th year assembly later in the week.

- Surveys discussed:
 - Survey about registration of pupils sent out via Groupcall and Satchel One to pupils and via email to all staff. To date 465 returned. Will put a text out tomorrow as a reminder to fill it out. Views are important and needs to reflect, as a school, what everyone thinks.
 - Caroline Amos provided information about surveys and how to “opt in”. More information about this coming soon.
 - One S2 and S4 class behaviour and social interaction survey to be done. Parents/carers will be contacted at home if they want to “opt out” of this survey.
 - PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). Running for 15 years involving 90 countries. Covers Maths, science and reading. Up to 40 of our 15 year olds will be selected at random to take part. Runs until November imminent. PISA rankings are applied, how our education systems are performing and show where we sit as a country. We can learn from countries who are doing better but perhaps they do not concentrate on health and wellbeing as much as we do. In 2018, the last time the rankings were given, for Maths we were 17th, 15th for Science reading. China 1st and Singapore 2nd. Every time they do these surveys they may prompt a change in education. Happy to be involved and for young people to participate. More information to follow.
 - Census Year – collection of information, will come to all.
- Inspections - talking to Faculty Leaders on Friday. Education Scotland engaging in recovery inspections, there are 9 next week. Opt-in to look at how well we have things in place. K Hegarty is one of the members of the “Associate Assessors for Scotland”. Three inspectors involved, someone from Local Authority, Health & Wellbeing and Teaching. On 10th March there is an announcement from Education Scotland as to what the inspection will look like. Ken Muir will keep us informed as it happens.
- Filming – Police Scotland in one day a week. Children 1st, Barnardos, John Paul coming in. Great to have people back inside the school. Leadership opportunities provided. Contributed to sports participation – wall climbing, skiing, some pupils nominated who are appropriate for these activities.
- World Book Day on 3rd March. Dress up as favourite character or non-uniform day optional. School Captains leading on this with different activities across year groups. Donations will be collected.
- Exams in a hall – question from Louise Mills.
 - Some pupils have never had the opportunity to sit an exam in a hall. A different feeling walking into an Exam Hall instead of a class setting. K Hegarty will get small groups together to experience this, once it is set up. SQA discussed at Assembly to let pupils know expectations, where your bag and phone go, what you’re allowed on your desk etc.
 - PSE & Guidance have been talking to pupils about studying and exams.
 - Question: why are Prelims being held late into March?
Answer: Estimate grades have to be sent to SQA to show the level. To collect evidence too early means they haven’t developed.

Assessments been spread over long period of time, some other schools had rapid exams over 2 weeks. Our rationale was we wanted to make sure we had the best evidence. Estimates contribute to overall grade and can also be used for appeals in exceptional circumstances e.g. when a child unable to sit exam. Evidence is scrutinised by a teacher to see if right standard. On 7th March SQA tell us more about what is in the exams. For some subjects they will tell us which topics covered and which ones do not need to be studied. Study guides will be supplied for some subjects. Caroline Kennedy in Science explained in Physics for example a guide might be provided on how to answer certain styles of questions. She explained it will not be known until the guide comes out but at end of the day pupils still have to learn the content. Pupils need to talk to teachers and are not put under undue stress to get evidence. Will be signposted through Satchel One once we have it.

- Music practical exam diet is in March. Visiting assessors have to come out to every school in Scotland, they have a timeframe. Once out the way then the focus is on theory.
- Question regarding spelling specific terms in Biology correctly. Answer: Certain subjects require the terms to have correct spelling or marks are deducted. Specific terms are taught in the content of each course. Spelling in other subjects, for example Maths, students are not penalised if they miss “mm” or “mg” in their answer. We have to go by what SQA dictate.
- Susan gave thanks for questions and responses.

5. Any other Business & Any Questions

Justin Jones gave the following summary:

- School twitter involvement.
- Captains or Vice-Captains been visiting primary schools. Hoping to work with transition and Mrs MacDougall if Primary Head teachers are keen for them to do so. Allows the Primary 7's to ask questions and talk about any concerns.
- Prom – S6 working towards Prom being secured. Final payment extended until next week. Captains happy to help and provide confidential support with any issues.
- World Book Day – Captains leading on this and would encourage participating by dressing up.
- Leavers Hoodies – these hopefully coming soon. Understand school uniform given priority.
- Study leave incentives.
- Working with Local Authority in regard to young people's voices being heard and consultation work. Work being done in Irvine area, at Bridgegate House next week. Keen for new services focus groups. Youth Worker, Ally Duncan involved. Ties in with school priorities.

Susan thanked Justin very much for all this information.

	Action
<p>Question: LGBT Group and Librarian had asked S Johnson about purchasing books. Parent Council could contribute to books? Everyone agreed that Parent Council happy to contribute £150 towards this. Another idea is to donate £150 towards Greenwood Gifts Appeal to help the Community towards things like electricity and gas. Everyone agreed a good use of funds. We get money from NAC on an annual basis, another donation could be made in August/September. Thanks to all for support.</p>	SJ
<p>Answer: K Hegarty said she can ask LGBT and Librarian about the books.</p>	KH
<p>6. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 3rd May 2022 and AGM @ 6:30pm by Zoom.</p>	