

MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2023 @ 6:30pm
GREENWOOD ACADEMY – HERITAGE ROOM
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, C McKinlay – Secretary, C Kennedy – Treasurer & 5 Parents/Carers (C Hyndman, A-M Hunter, L McDade, L McQuaker, P Soave)
Apologies: J Matthews, E McQueen

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<p>1. Welcome – K Hegarty Welcome to our first Parent Council Meeting for year 2023-2024. It is lovely to see each other face-to-face in a room for the first time in a few years and to have a good conversation to gauge how people feel.</p> <p>2. Last meeting Minutes - 9TH May 2023 will be made available on https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/greenwoodac/</p> <p>3. Treasurer’s Report – C Kennedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1562.24 in the Parent Council Account • The Participatory Budget funding of £1000 spent this week. <p>4. HT Update – K Hegarty – Shared slides on the screen to discuss the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2023 SQA Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delighted with 4th year results in May, attainment raised. Our challenge to convert the S4 year group success into S5 and try to build on that. ➤ SCQF Level 5 (NAT5) – we changed curriculum timetable to make it seven subjects. We dual present in maths, if pupils able enough, they will do Maths and Applications of Maths to give them eight subjects. Levels of literacy and numeracy through BGE (Broad General Education) is very strong. It is above our virtual comparator. Next step is to convert the NAT5’s to Highers making sure pupils receive support through supported study. Many teachers offer this informally. ➤ HMIE are not talking about trends in exam results due to interrupted learning in 2020/2021 Assessment Model. ➤ We track attainment and attendance. Following lockdown some pupils are not attending as well as they did prior to Covid. Through PEF, we employed two PT Inclusion staff. J Fulton and K Dobbie have been in post for 6 weeks. They are looking at 85 pupils whose attendance is worrying, especially 4th year pupils who are close to sitting exams. ➤ Two home tuition blocks one avenue of support, with the child then getting back to school. The agreed tuition consists of a few periods a week, not always held in the home and limited subjects taught. ➤ Extended outreach is another support, not held in school. The aim is to attain five qualifications. North Ayrshire Council approached to help with this. ➤ Online provision for pupils not attending starting as well as after school provision. Miss J Fulton and Mrs K Dobbie supporting this ➤ Recent move forward to deliver education at Townend Community Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We need to release staff from core teaching to staff this. Some pupils feel more comfortable with this approach. Some pupils are doing a hybrid of both after school and Townend. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The landscape of what school looks like is changing. Maureen Nugent came to Greenwood last week to do a case study. Two of our teachers trained in “Project Restore”. This 12-week course helps young people to deal with anxiety and to restore resilience. We also have a few pupils taught by other Agencies/Local Authorities. ➤ The issue of increasing numbers of pupils not attending school is a national problem. There is a lot of pressure and resilience is low. There are many external factors including dependency. Some people have adapted but some have struggled. Our current S1 have had more stability of upper primary school compared with current S2 and S3 to some extent. The Education Reform landscape might look different. 	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School Priorities/Improvement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our school mirrors NAC priorities. Along with these Minutes, the Improvement Plan can be viewed on the School Blog. ➤ Under each five sections we have broken down the interventions, we have staff working in trios and building on professional learning. Additional support looked at to see what was in place and any inconsistencies. Approaches to learning and teaching discussed along with support from personnel and provision of resources. The group of people named on the slide were all involved in the Review. ➤ Changes to Staged Intervention discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Every child moved to Universal. ○ Enhanced Universal – when a little bit more support required with learning eg intervention with literacy short-term. Can also involve child’s wellbeing or a combination of both. Class teacher, pupil support teacher, guidance teacher, classroom assistant, area inclusion worker, family learning worker, targeted nurture, school counsellor – all of these people can be involved but not for the long term. If a child dyslexic – class teacher can support EU. ○ Stage 1 – can be all of the above but required for a longer period. Also may require support that is more intensive. EU may not be enough to meet the child’s needs. Care experienced or young carers also come under Stage 1. May also have other agencies involved eg CAMHS, Education Psychologist. Staged intervention plan updated termly to make sure targets meet child’s needs. Invited to (TAC) Team around the Child meeting annually to provide more clarity. If a child dyslexic, needs 1-1 support ongoing and may need a scribe, this would be Stage 1. ○ Stage 2 – all of the above but social work are also involved. We have our own social work department in Greenwood. If the child goes to the Young Carers Centre, at Outreach or if educated out with Ayrshire they are also Stage 2. The difference between Stage 1 and 2 is monitoring is carried out more often and is more intensive. TAC meetings held twice a year. ○ Meeting held last week with all teaching staff to discuss Staged Intervention pupils. ○ Parents/carers will be sent a letter if their child has a staged intervention. The key person for the young person named on the letter. ○ The review carried out over the summer, the spreadsheet with 438 pupils’ names updated, some names added, and some had changed levels. ○ Young people are involved in the conversations. ○ Pupil Census held last week. We can now take a snapshot and contact the parents. It is important the language understood. There were no replies to the letters; she thinks more will come from the meetings. 	CMcK

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans reviewed at any time and now it is clear what we are recording this is the right time to do this. <p>➤ Supporting Mental Health Mental Health support board outside guidance offices. Key staff all been trained and talk to young people. We also have pupil mental health ambassadors. Sharing this information with all pupils this week.</p> <p>➤ Promoting Positive Relationship Awards As a school, we looked at what we are doing to promote positive relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Merits and demerits awarded depending on engagement and a whole host of criteria. ○ Top 20% receive platinum and then there is gold, silver and bronze. Every term they are re-set. ○ Attendance also taken in consideration and we hope to promote good attendance. Young people who have had a bereavement or struggling through anxiety are not marked negatively. ○ Contributes to house points. Montgomery currently just out in front. ○ Three merits gets a commendation. ○ As part of the review teachers told to tell pupils why they are getting a merit or demerit. ○ Assemblies to celebrate successes planned for next week. A representative from each class to collect the certificates. The hope is that it generates interest. <p>➤ Senior Phase Supports Study support and webinars each week covering 26 subjects. Accessible for Levels 3 and 4. Encouraging young people to sign up to reinforce the work done in the classroom. They can dip in and out of subjects. There is a tile they can download called “Achieve”, worthwhile for them. S6 planning a Ceilidh. Seniors organising a Halloween afternoon.</p> <p>➤ School Mini Bus We do not have one; our previous mini bus had to go to Auction. Very difficult not having a mini bus. Mr Neill, Depute Head Teacher taking this forward. We have a company who said they would match any fund we have. Other companies have said they will help us out.</p> <p>➤ Police Scotland Partnership Next time we meet, we could have someone to talk to us about their work with young people who are potentially picking up charges in the local community. Building partnerships with local community, meeting next week with the Fire Brigade.</p> <p>➤ Any input from Parent Council about matters they would like discussed at future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One parent asked about how to encourage her child to read and to make it more fun. More information on how to achieve this, if they are not on a certain reading level, would be very worthwhile. ○ Another asked about how to help her child with homework. When the strike was on, she found it challenging to be able to understand the different online homework set. Some of the Google Classroom and Satchel One logins did not work. ○ Moving into senior phase another question and any help with this. Mrs Hegarty thought this gave her food for thought and at the upcoming S1 Briefing, information regarding support offered. MathsPad is good because it has a video with it. 	Action
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<p>Accelerated reader promotes reading and accessing books at the right level. One parent found this very useful. The Book Club was helpful where parents can attend.</p> <p>➤ Bus Issue Discussion about Stagecoach buses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stagecoach run the buses, they should stop in the main road but come into school due to safety issues. ○ Recently the driver came off the bus and shut the door with the pupils on the bus due to trouble. ○ Following day, the driver ordered all the pupils off the bus (the buzzer was going off due to trouble) and Mrs Hegarty explained to them the need to come back into school if they are stuck. Some of the pupils had paid and would have to go to the bus station to get the money back. Parents who turned up to collect their children told what happened. ○ If there are issues on the Bus, PC Tate or herself are the contacts. ○ There is CCTV on the bus and pupils causing trouble identified very easily. The bus company want police intervention. ○ The day after the incident Stagecoach had someone to come and stand with teachers to ensure good order getting onto the bus. There is a person on the bus as well as the driver now. ○ Information put through Health and Wellbeing slides telling pupils they need to leave a bus when asked by the driver. ○ Majority of pupils behave well on the buses, trouble coming from the minority. Pupils needs to sit two to a seat, not three. ○ If any parents have issues with routes, they need to contact Stagecoach. ○ One parent mentioned that at certain times of the morning there is always a delay due to Parks having delivery of cars. <p>➤ Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greenwood Parent Council still running without a chairperson. A letter sent out to all parents/carers to explain the purpose of the Parent Council. ○ Parents/carers interested in joining, who attended the P7 Briefing Evening, are now on our mailing list. ○ Please spread the word we are going back to face-to-face meetings. ○ We have never had a teacher representative on our Parent Council but we have teachers attending as speakers from time to time. We will continue to do this. ○ Looking for representatives for S1 and S5. ○ Dates for meetings on letter put out today. Our meeting on 4th December 2023 will be online. ○ In future, we will try to have face-to-face meetings and to bring people online to join so that they can participate. <p>5. Any Other Business & Any Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion about wearing of School uniform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One parent queried why leggings disallowed when their Primary school allowed them. A decision taken last year to strengthen and standardise school uniform, there had been so many different versions. Pupils and staff consulted and the goal is to make sure everyone looks smart and can take pride in their Greenwood Academy uniform. ○ Shirt, tie, black trousers/skirt and no hoodie tops. There has been a big improvement and the majority of pupils are wearing shirt and tie now. 	<p>Action</p>
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- If a child has sensory issues, there are clothing outlets who sell sensory sensitive clothing.
- After Covid lockdown, many young people came into school dressed in PE kit. We have changing rooms to allow pupils to change for PE. One parent expressed concern about children's anxieties around changing rooms and she feels strongly they should not have to use them.
- Parents/carers informed about uniform and we have good quality uniform purchased for anyone who requires help with it. Standard of uniform for our pupils was high in comparison to other schools. As the standard increases the more it does not become a conversation. Trying to work in partnership with parents/carers and reasons for health and safety. Our senior pupils are setting an excellent example to the junior pupils in the wearing of school uniform and we are delighted with how they look. Staff volunteered to be at the front door of the school in the morning to welcome pupils and to check on wearing of uniform. This has been working very well.
- In winter for PE, they can wear something on top of their black t-shirt and shorts to keep them warm.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 6th November in the Heritage Room @ 6:30pm – please sign in at the desk in the corridor when you enter at the KA Leisure side door. We look forward to seeing you then.