

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER 2023 @ 6:00pm
GREENWOOD ACADEMY – HERITAGE ROOM
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (ONLINE by TEAMS)

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

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| <p>1. Welcome – K Hegarty Welcome to our second Parent Council Meeting (online in TEAMS) for year 2023-2024.</p> <p>2. Last meeting Minutes - 2nd October 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"> • £1,379.24 in the Parent Council Account as of 1st November 2023. <p>4. HT Update – K Hegarty Shared slides on the screen to discuss the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Faculty Engagement, Trio Work and Senior Management Engagement Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty Leader and Head Teacher observed every class in Languages and Literacy. ○ Gathered views and feedback to learning and teaching. ○ Faculty Leader and Deputy Head discuss monitoring and tracking over a full day and report follows. ○ Technologies and Social Subjects finished, RMPS this week. ○ Follow-up week again for Science. ○ We meet with staff from several other schools in North Ayrshire to observe lessons, meet with pupils and visit each other’s schools. A visit to Irvine Royal is planned for early March. ○ This is extended to primary schools too, we meet in trios. We are more established in taking this forward, our first visit is in February. ○ Sharon McDowall our Education Manager has linked with us for a few years now. Meeting already held to look at results, Insights updated in December. We looked at Departments performing very well and others where there is improvement of results needed. Quality assurance runs throughout the year, she is also part of the trio work. We will meet later in the year to look at BGE (Broad General Education) tracking and Prelim results. ➤ Working Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting Needs Review – Staged Interventions. This was discussed at the previous Parent Council Meeting. C Doig, one of our Depute Head Teachers involved and L Morris, Senior Manager in charge of this. Shaping what this looks like in North Ayrshire Council. ○ Moderation – School Leads. H Dillon in Science and A Rogers in Music meet regularly in other schools looking at BGE. This was part of last year’s Improvement Plan. Faculty Leads meet with them in Greenwood. ○ Learning Participation – Along with Kilwinning Academy and Irvine Royal pupils are trained to lead conversations with other pupils with regards to what needs to improve. Education Scotland have a meeting next week to look at what the training looks like. | |

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| <p>This is also part of our trio work and K Hegarty part of this Group. D Johnstone, Faculty Lead for Maths, G Cockerill, Faculty Lead for PE and teachers from across Ayrshire look at standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NAC have a particular focus on pupil non-attendance in school and how to support these pupils in different ways. Head Teachers met for a whole day in Greenwood to discuss how to tackle non-attendance. Renfrewshire Council also contributed their experience. At another meeting K Dobbie, J Fulton (PT Inclusion) and P MacDougall, Depute Head Teacher discussed overseeing our approach in getting pupils to attend school. Townend Community Centre being used to target pupils who are not coming into school to learn. Looking at different ways to support pupils who do not come into the school building. <p>➤ SQA</p> <p>SQA have been reaching out for markers so that they have national standards. Happy to support that for the future, several members of our staff are involved with SQA. They take part in national discussions and this provide quality assurance.</p> <p>All of the above gives a flavour of the things our staff have been working on in partnership with other parts of the Council.</p> <p>➤ Health and Wellbeing/Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In H & W Registration been talking about things going on in school, encouraging pupils to get involved. They see slides on a weekly basis about learning participation, consistent messages about uniform, mobile phones, food produced in school – a whole host of things. ○ Review of H & W Registration. Following Covid in February 2022, we had a consultation about introducing Registration period at the start of the day. 80% of pupils, parents and staff surveyed (956 responded) where in favour. We wanted to build a strong relationship, teachers acting like front-line Guidance staff. Took a period from Thursday 50 minutes learning and split into 5 lots of 10 minutes every morning. ○ Met with 100 S3 pupils along with Mrs Doig, Depute Head Teacher to gather their views. We asked them if it is fit for purpose and it gave them an opportunity to discuss in their groups and give feedback in their questionnaires. Parents and staff will be asked to participate to gather all the views before moving forward. ○ Instead of 10 minutes in the morning we could do 50 minutes of Period 1 and Period 2 and do 10 minutes check in before morning interval. We explored pupil views on that in the questionnaire. Feedback from S3 pupils was overwhelmingly positive. Some pupils with friends in East Ayrshire mentioned they finish early on a Friday. Discussed the positives and negatives of this with them as it would mean 4 longer days Monday – Thursday. ○ Asked parents online at the meeting for their views to see if their children value registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One parent thought it was useful for teacher assessing any issues first thing if they think the pupil is a bit off that morning, passwords sorted etc. ● Another parent thought it was very useful. It has helped her S1 daughter to have another key person and to get information. Her older daughter did not have this opportunity and she can see the difference it has made. ○ Some teachers use the slides and take things further, using the time to talk about current topics and BBC news. ○ We will continue the current Registration until the next in-service day in February. All of the views will be gathered by mid-January. | <p>Action</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purple Day Ayrshire Hospice were delighted with £1,150 donated. One of our families had a bereavement and did a collection at the funeral but had not had the opportunity to hand it over. A special thank you was given for this. Well done to all for raising this money. ➤ Sister Act Junior – School Show Our school show was a great success. On the Sunday all Primary 7 pupils from across our school cluster and their teachers came along to watch the dress rehearsal. It then ran from Monday until Wednesday night and was a huge success. This is a great way to bring pupils and staff together. Staff involved gave up their time at the weekend and at night, a big thank you to them also. ➤ Remembrance Day Greenwood representatives took a wreath for Remembrance Day. ➤ Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament This tournament was hosted by Greenwood in November. As well as our team, St Matthews had 2 teams and Wellington had a team. The topic was whether “Performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in sports”. Olivia from Greenwood got the “Best Floor Speaker” of the evening. St Matthew’s team won and Wellington Grammar made it through to next round. One of the judges saw something in Billy, one of our Senior Pupils taking part. She came in to meet him to give him advice on Law. ➤ Graham Armstrong Graham was a former gang member, he came through that experience and now working with young people and community groups. He came to Greenwood before and the pupils enjoyed hearing his story. If you want to hear his story you can watch it on I-Player, called Street Gangs. He met with our English pupils who are doing Higher, Modern Studies pupils and S3 pupils as part of our school engagement. Hard-hitting but for young people who are involved with the police and some who are not involved, gives perspective on how they can turn their life around. He may come back to talk to staff too. ➤ Grado visited Greenwood to talk to our pupils about acting. ➤ Robin Ballantyne is also a regular face in the school talking to pupils about financial education. He focuses on senior pupils giving them things to think about when they are living on their own. He tells them the realities of what that looks like. <p>Good to have the variety of input for pupils, hearing from people from all walks of life.</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Halloween Disco S6 pupils ran a disco for S1 pupils. They all had good fun dressing up and it was a great success. ➤ Journalism Club We have a new Journalism Club run by pupils, overseen by Mr Linning. The third version of the new newsletter is out with what is going on in school. They are gathering information and producing the final article. This is open to all pupils across the school, if anyone is interested they can see Mr Linning. They could gain qualifications from being involved. | |

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| <p>➤ Prelims Fourth year pupils will sit their Prelims, starting with English, Biology and Practical Cookery. S5 & S6 pupils sit theirs towards the end of January. These exams give a snapshot of how they are getting on and show up any gaps in learning. Invigilators in school today and tomorrow, exams being held in the big Games Hall giving them that experience. From Wednesday our teachers will invigilate. We have a significant amount of pupils using ICT and scribes, accommodating their needs. Most of them felt quite confident from what she saw in English.</p> <p>➤ Winter Breakfast From today until 2nd February 2024 free breakfast is available for all pupils in the Atrium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was relayed to all pupils in the Health and Wellbeing slides last week, promoted along with the Fusion App. ○ Young people were reminded where the pre-order booth is in the Atrium. ○ Open to all pupils, not just pupils receiving free meals. ○ Breakfast important and sets them up for the day. This morning was not too busy but will advertise again. We had the highest uptake of this per head of any school last time this promotion ran. <p>➤ Christmas Jumper Day We are having Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December. Mr Neill overseeing and Mrs McNeil taking the lead on a Christmas jumper swap, we have had 40 donated already.</p> <p>➤ Santa Dash This being held on 21st December. S6 can sign up for this.</p> <p>➤ S6 Christmas Ceilidh – 6th December in School</p> <p>➤ End of Term Information Key message to staff is, unless it is supervised it is Business As Usual right up until Friday 22nd December finish. We normally have extended breakfast in the morning. Sometimes we have an “Open Mic” and a bit of entertainment. Pupils go to class a bit later in the morning. Expecting all teachers to continue doing the courses up to the end. Videos only connected with the curriculum will be shown. I would encourage pupils to be in school. Contact me if you hear anything otherwise.</p> <p>➤ Next Meeting At our next meeting I will invite K Dobbie and J Fulton. Our Librarian might want to come along and share information too. Parents had mentioned they would want more information about literacy. One parent asked for something about numbers and literacy and an opportunity to help with CHAP and multiplying. She feels parents need support to enable them to help their children with homework. This would be very beneficial to parents as the teaching methods are different now. Mrs Hegarty will pull something together to help with this. Some members of staff have been doing training in school.</p> <p>➤ Christmas Fayre No Christmas fayre this year but might have one in summer. Was too much to hold School Show and Christmas Fayre so close together.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">KH</p> |

| 5. Any Other Business & Any Questions | Action |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents Briefing 30th October – S1. Parent did not have the right information about timings on the night and asked if it could be sent out in good time beforehand. Something went wrong with the communication and the time was not on it. Mrs Hegarty will talk to Mr Neill, Depute Head Teacher about the miscommunication. S3 Briefing well attended on the same night. | KH |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent discussed her daughter’s distress about the toilets. On a few occasions she was feeling a bit unwell and not happy going to the toilet. She has ongoing issues with toilets in public places. Mrs Hegarty will take this on board and investigate the issues. We have a small number of pupils who have other arrangements and permission to use specific toilets. She will have conversations with her daughter’s Guidance Teacher and with Janitors and Cleaners. | KH |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any parents have any ideas or suggestions please do not wait for meetings. You can share through Catherine McKinlay, Parent Council Secretary and she will pass the information on to her. Parent mentioned ongoing issue with lunch queues, pupils pushing etc. Mrs Hegarty will say to staff supervising. If two are covering supervision they often stop the line half way so that the queue is orderly. | KH |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent mentioned that his daughters came back from school last week saying the classrooms were particularly cold and they were told to take their jackets off in class. This is our school code in normal circumstances. We had two days last week when the boilers were temporarily not working. The building warmed up very quickly. Mrs Hegarty put an email out to staff to say to allow pupils to have their jackets on until situation resolved. Possible that some staff were teaching at the time and missed this email. She will put out a reminder that if heating is broken and situation requires jackets on to keep warm, this is allowed. | KH |
| <p>Enjoy Christmas and see you all in the New Year.</p> | |
| <p>6. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th February 2024 online by TEAMS. March meeting will be held face-to-face.</p> | |