

Graeme High School

Parent Council Update

Meeting & AGM

Monday 18th November 2019



PRESENT AT OUR MEETING:

Sian Balfour (Chairperson), Karren Morrison (Vice Chairperson), Lesley Carroll (Headteacher), Kristy Rennie (Depute Headteacher), Margo Marshall (Business Education Teacher), Rhona MacDonald, Nicola Jenkins, Margaret Wilson, Zoe Turkington, Richard Totten, Lynn McCallum, Graeme Mason, Catriona Hamilton, Zayn Ali (Captain), Lauren McNair (Captain), Marie Snow (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

Gordon Brown (Treasurer), Councillor Kerr, Mhairi Smith

CATCHING UP FROM LAST TIME

MENTAL HEALTH

Lesley Carroll confirmed that, as part of the Mental Health Strategy, the school has identified a week in October to have a Mental Health Week. Miss Carroll also confirmed that the government have committed to fund school based counsellors, although the details around this have not yet been finalised.

Action: R Queenan / K Morrison



SENIOR FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL – 7th NOVEMBER 2019

The school has decided to adapt this year's S4-S6 Parents Evening in an attempt to make it a better experience for pupils and parents. Sian Balfour and Karren Morrison had an opportunity to contribute to the programme for the evening. The programme will be e-mailed to the parents/carers of S4-S6 pupils.

All teachers will be available on the evening to answer any questions or to give advice.

There will also be a range of workshops, stalls and an Information Hub to provide parents/carers with the information they need to support their child with their studies.

Action: K Rennie



WHAT'S IN OUR MAIL?

No new items



ISSUES/QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK

ZOMBIE QUEST

The group discussed the activity, which has raised just over £2000 so far. The group felt that if parents were aware of the reason for requiring funding to renovate the changing rooms that this may have helped to increase donations.

Lesley Carroll will arrange for information to be sent out to all parents.

Sian Balfour and Margaret Leech, who is involved in Parent Council Forums both locally and nationally, to investigate further into potential funding streams.

Action: L Carroll / S Balfour / M Leech



TONIGHT'S 'BIG CONVERSATION'

GHS: WHAT DOES BETTER LOOK LIKE?:

Ms Carroll gave an overview of the 4 key School Improvement Priorities for the current session, which are:

- Raising Attainment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Vision, Values and Aims
- Skills



Lesley advised that the school are working towards the Gold Award in Right Respecting Schools this session.

Mrs Rennie, DHT, introduced a range of topics on which parents might offer feedback and/or leadership so contributing to school improvement. Discussion groups took place on a number of areas including communication, skills for work, schools app and partnerships. These activities were facilitated by Mrs Rennie, seeking views, ideas and interest from the parents present on "what does better look like?" for Graeme High School. Lots of enthusiasm, ideas and suggestions were generated. Mrs Rennie agreed to take the feedback from each of the groups and plan for further follow-up discussions and parent involvement taking forward a range of improvement initiatives. Parents thanked Mrs Rennie for the opportunity to again engage with school improvement.

Action : K Rennie & Parent Volunteers

AOB

No new items.

NEXT MEETING

DATE	NEXT BIG CONVERSATION TOPICS
Tuesday 4th February 2020	Council of the Future Update – L Carroll

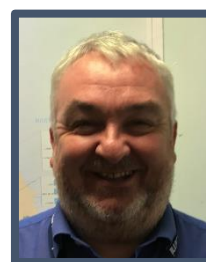
We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. New members are always welcome to attend.



Sian Balfour
Chairperson



Karren Morrison
Vice Chairperson



Gordon Brown
Treasurer

RECORD OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

STAND DOWN OF OFFICE BEARERS / ELECTION OF NEW OFFICE BEARERS

Sian Balfour is happy to continue as Chairperson and Karren Morrison is happy to continue as Vice Chairperson. No voting is required due to both just being elected a year ago.

Gordon Brown is happy to continue as Treasurer. Gordon has held this role for over 3 years so Parent Council members were asked if they agreed for Gordon to continue to do the role. All were in agreement for Gordon to continue.

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Here is a look back at the key achievements and activities of the parent council over the past school year:



SCHOOL BUDGET

- Last November a letter outlining a worrying level of budget cuts over the next 5 years by Falkirk Council was issued to all parents and a number of cost saving options were proposed. The letter and its content raised a high level of concern from parents' right across the Authority.
- We were successful as a group in making sure our voice was heard through a range of communication and attendance at meetings, with elected members and council officials.
- We successfully challenged some of the options and ensured elected members were fully aware of the consequences around the options being proposed
- Whilst we did not receive the desired outcome and lost form time, the option subsequently selected was probably the one that was likely to impact least, on our young people's learning

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

- We issued a questionnaire to seek feedback from parents that attend our meetings to find out how helpful they found the meetings, and what else we might do to make them more informative and accessible.
- The outcome of this was to move the meeting time and venue to a less formal setting.
- We also reviewed the minutes and created more accessible and less formal format.
- We have tried to improve our communication and reach to parents through attendance at S1 parents' evening, Family Learning Festival, by issuing an open invite to P7 parents to our meetings and continued use of Twitter - there are signs that this is all has had a positive impact and we had our biggest attendance of parents for several years, at the last meeting.

OTHER KEY AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Family Learning Festival – our input around this event helped to shape the event.
- STEM – Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and a presentation by Mr Beath shared examples of how the school is promoting STEM and developing skills of the young people at GHS in these areas.
- Mental Health Strategy - Karren Morrison, our vice chairperson has offered support, and training to staff to help them develop the whole school's knowledge and understanding of this area.

AND FINALLY...

I'd like to thank you the Management team and staff members who regularly attend our meetings as representatives and speakers. We've also welcomed attendance this year from some of our elected members. A special mention must go to Marie Snow, our clerk who does a fabulous job of keeping us organised and to the school captains for attending and providing a helpful perspective to discussions. And lastly a big thank you to all those parents, that regularly attend these meetings, for their continued interest, partnership and support

TREASURER'S REPORT – ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31/07/2019

	£	£
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		713.49

INCOME

Parent Council Funding from Falkirk Council	605.00	
Deposit to Ensure Statement	1.00	
TOTAL		<u>606.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

Clerk Payments	250.00	
Prize for Family Learning Event	30.00	
Contribution to Leavers Scarves	500.00	
TOTAL		<u>780.00</u>

BALANCE AS OF 31/07/2019		<u>539.49</u>
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Gordon Brown will submit the Statement of Accounts to Falkirk Council.

Action: G Brown

