

Graeme High School

Parent Council Update

Tuesday 4th February 2020



PRESENT AT OUR MEETING:

Sian Balfour (Chairperson), Karren Morrison (Vice Chairperson), Gordon Brown (Treasurer), Lesley Carroll (Headteacher), Kristy Rennie (Depute Headteacher), Margo Marshall (Business Education Teacher), Rhona MacDonald, Nicola Jenkins, Margaret Wilson, Richard Totten, Graeme Mason, Mhairi Smith, Anne-Louise Hayden, Zayn Ali (Captain), Aimee McQueen (Captain), Councillor Binnie, Marie Snow (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

Zoe Turkington, Councillor Kerr

CATCHING UP FROM LAST TIME

MENTAL HEALTH

Miss Carroll confirmed that the funds have been released from the Government for a school based Counsellor. DHT Ross Queenan is currently involved in consultations regarding the possibility of keeping the school's current service provider and also the strategy for the next school year. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Action: R Queenan



PARENT'S EVENING / FAMILY LEARNING

The format of the last S4-S6 Parent's Evening, which was combined with a Family Learning Event, was a great success.

The S1-S3 Family Learning Event in on Tuesday 05/05/20 will again be combined with the P7 Transition Event since this was well received last year.

Sian Balfour and Gordon Brown have volunteered to represent the Parent Council at the Events and Marie Snow will provide Parent Council information hand outs and sign-up forms to encourage parental engagement.

Action: S Balfour / G Brown / M Snow

**Family
Learning**

WHAT'S IN OUR MAIL?

No new items



ISSUES/QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK

PE CHANGING FACILITIES

Sian Balfour and Margaret Leech to investigate further potential funding streams other than school fundraising to make the PE Changing Facilities more private. Sian Balfour to contact the Council regarding the PPP contract.

Action: S Balfour / M Leech



PUPIL PROGRESS REPORTS

A parent raised the point that it would be useful to have the definition of Gold, Silver and Bronze at the start of the report instead of at the end and other Parent Council members agreed with this.

Action: L Carroll

LOCKER PADLOCKS

A parent asked what the end of school year procedure was for lockers. Lesley Carroll stated that pupils are given notice well before the summer holidays that they must remove their padlock from their locker. This is to allow maintenance checks to be done and to ensure than no food items are left in lockers over the holiday period. Pupils are allocated lockers for the duration of their time at Graeme High School.

CHRISTMAS DANCE

There was a discussion around the year groups attending the 2019 Christmas Dance. Some S4 pupils had thought that they would be invited but it was only S5 and S6 pupils. The Captains had held a meeting where they all agreed that only S5 and S6 pupils would be invited due to numbers and then advertised the event.

Sian Balfour asked the Captains to consider this going forward as S5/6 pupils get both a Christmas Dance and then a Prom at the end of the year.

Action: Captains

PUPIL ABSENCES

Several parents in the meeting mentioned that they had incorrectly received texts stating that their child was absent from school. Lesley Carroll said that this was likely a result of pupils going straight to prelim exams with no form time anymore. We also do not receive the exam attendance list in time to update each pupil's attendance so some may have been missed. Lesley Carroll said that in the new system issues are being worked through and the school has recently employed an Attendance Officer to track absences and support pupils and families to improve attendance.

Action: L Carroll

RELAYING OF TELEPHONE MESSAGES

A parent queried how messages are passed to staff. Lesley Carroll explained the process and said that she would speak to the Office Senior to ensure the process is robust and to consider further improvements via the digital switchboard system.

Action: L Carroll

COUNCIL OF THE FUTURE UPDATE

Lesley Carroll is awaiting further information on how the "Council of the Future" will affect the school. Falkirk Council intends to invite Parent Council members to a meeting once more information is made available.

Action: L Carroll

TONIGHT'S 'BIG CONVERSATION' - GHS: WHAT DOES BETTER LOOK LIKE? UPDATE

Kristy Rennie shared a summary of the information gathered from the "what does better look like" discussion held at the last meeting (see next page) and asked for further feedback on whether there was anything else, on reflection that the group felt had been missed. After some discussion, Parent Council members agreed to concentrate on the areas identified with a few additions/updates:



- School App – Senior Technician meeting with Bo'ness Academy to see how their app works.
- Interview skills – survey to be sent out to all parents to find out if they would be interested in being involved in interview skills workshops or mentoring for senior pupils and also to find out which industry they are involved in.
- Microsoft Teams – workshop to be added to the Family Learning Event in May showing parents how to use this.

Going forward, school improvements to continue to be kept on the agenda and Kristy Rennie and parents involved in working groups etc. will give an update on the progress at every meeting.

Action: K Rennie

EMPOWERING PARENTS – SIP PLANNING

Parent Council Meeting – 18th November 2019

Parents/ carers were asked to consider how they could support the school's work, drawing on skills in the workplace, community involvement or personal interest.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- ☐ Supporting Positive Destinations: completion and assessment of application forms and CVs; career talks; interview skills etc.
Zoe Turkington, Sian Balfour, Rhona McDonald, Richard Totten
- ☐ LinkedIn: creation of a GHS account to widen the range and involvement of business partnerships.
Zoe Turkington
- ☐ Volunteering Database: Creation of a database to collate a range of volunteering opportunities within the local community.
Catriona Hamilton
- ☐ My World of Work - Careers Workshops: involvement of business partners as part of PSE options programme.
Zoe Turkington
- ☐ School App: Inform development of school app.
Margaret Wilson
- ☐ Parents' Evening Planning
Richard Totten
- ☐ Show My Homework
Catriona Hamilton and Sian Balfour
- ☐ Yearly Planner
Richard Totten



PROGRESS

- ☐ Working Group of staff established: K.Rennie, S.Bradley, J.Faill, R.Dunning.
- ☐ The following work is now underway:
 - Planning meeting to explore LinkedIn with Z.Turkington.
 - Creation of GHS LinkedIn page underway – S.Bradley.
 - Registration to Founders4schools – J.Faill
 - Links and activities to support senior PSE Programme identified for Session 2019-2020. Wider involvement planned for next session. – J.Faill.
 - New Senior Technician has arranged Looking Wider session to Bo'ness Academy to review their school app. GHS will host parental meeting to examine the app following this. – T.Lockie.

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Volunteering Database: arrange meeting with Catriona Hamilton – K.Rennie.
- ☐ Identify schools using Show My Homework successfully within the Falkirk area. Set-up Looking Wider visits involving Catriona Hamilton and Sian Balfour. - K.Rennie.
- ☐ Review Parents Evening formats following Feb/ March, with Richard Totten – A.Buchanan.
- ☐ Ongoing development and use of LinkedIn page – S.Bradley and K.Rennie
- ☐ Involve Richard Totten in abridged yearly planner for all parents. – K.Rennie

AOB

APPEALS PROCESS

Rhona MacDonald stated that she is happy to continue to represent the Parent Council Catchment and Exclusion appeals. Members were happy for Rhona to continue to represent them in this important role.

Action: R MacDonald

NEXT MEETING

DATE	NEXT BIG CONVERSATION TOPICS
Wednesday 11 th March 2020	Mental Health Strategy Update – Ross Queenan

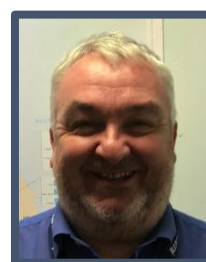
We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. New members are always welcome to attend.



Sian Balfour
Chairperson



Karren Morrison
Vice Chairperson



Gordon Brown
Treasurer