

Graeme High School

Parent Council Update

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 10th December 2020



PRESENT AT OUR MEETING:

Sian Balfour (Chairperson), Karren Morrison (Vice Chairperson), Gordon Brown (Treasurer) Lesley Carroll (Headteacher), Margo Marshall (Business Education Teacher), Nicola Jenkins, Margaret Wilson, Anne Louise Hayden, Mhairi Smith, Zoe Turkington, Graeme Mason, Catriona Currie, Kate Gallacher, Kirsty Scott, Marie Snow (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

Hazel Beattie

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Sian Balfour is happy to continue as Chairperson and Karren Morrison is happy to continue as Vice Chairperson. Both are going into the third year of their roles and intend to stand down next year since their children will be leaving school.

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 due to the current circumstances. Gordon intends to stand down next year due to his son having now left the school.

Any parents/carers who would be interested in one of the roles next can contact Sian Balfour for more information. Full support will be given to anyone interested.

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

The usual process at each AGM, is for the chairperson to give his/her report and a look back over the last year – when I last did this, just over a year ago, who could ever have foreseen what lay ahead.

Covid-19 has impacted on every part of life as we knew it and that's no different for us as a Parent Council too – unfortunately it has impacted considerably on our ability to meet as a group and move forward some of the ideas and improvements we'd just started to progress at the end of last year, which included helping to develop a new school app and looking at ways we could offer our support to young people to move into the world of work. We hope that we will be able to work closely with the school again to progress some of this, when more normal times return.

Perhaps most disappointingly though, is the impact Covid has had on our ability to communicate face to face with each other and the wider parent forum, and those events that would normally have provided that opportunity, such as S1 transitions events, parents' evenings and other family learning events, have either had to be cancelled or moved online, albeit we have tried our best to maintain communication through Twitter, email and the school website. One aspect we were able to feed into was the inspection process. This took place at the beginning of March, just before lockdown – and as parents, we were able to input into this process via a survey, and meetings with inspectors as well as a 1-2-1 meeting I was asked to have with the managing inspector, as the chair. The overall outcome and report was a very positive one for the school – highlighting strengths of the school's work around leadership and the strong commitment of staff to improving outcomes for our young people.

We have all had to embrace technology in very new and different ways and in May we managed to hold our first virtual meeting – at a time when schools were still closed, and we were all grappling with the joys of home learning! That meeting provided a good opportunity to share our experiences both with each other as parents and with the school. We then met again in October, which also provided a very useful opportunity to pose our questions to the school around a whole range of issues linked to the re-opening of schools, such as plans for parents evenings, exams, practical classes

and lots more. From this we formulated a Q&A, which will now be shared with other parents. As a group, we will continue to meet virtually until such times as we can meet in school again.

I would like to say a huge and heartfelt thanks on behalf of parents and carers to all staff – we recognise the huge daily challenges they have faced and continue to face, to keep our children safe – both physically and mentally, whilst keep themselves and their own families safe, and all while still continuing to ensure our children have a positive experience at school and opportunities to learn. One further thanks goes to Marie Snow, our Clerk – again a very different way of working this year, but she is always very willing to help and I'm very grateful to her.

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

	£	£
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		389.49
<u>INCOME</u>		
Parent Council Funding from Falkirk Council	590.00	
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Clerk Payments	250.00	
BALANCE AS OF 31/07/2020		<u>729.49</u>



Gordon Brown will submit the Statement of Accounts to Falkirk Council.

Action: G Brown

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Parents were then invited to join one of the breakout sessions being led by the senior leadership team:

Welcome S1 Parents – Ms Carroll
SQA update – Mr Buchanan
Mental Health & Wellbeing – Mr Queenan
Remote Learning – Mrs Rennie
Courses & Pathways – Mr Beath

Where appropriate, information from each session will be uploaded to the Parent Council section of the school website and will be labelled 'Info Sessions Dec 2020'.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A meeting will be arranged for around February time. The date will be communicated to parents/carers once it has been finalised.



Sian Balfour
Chairperson



Karren Morrison
Vice Chairperson



Gordon Brown
Treasurer

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Please forward any queries, feedback or issues you would like raised by the Parent Council to
GHSParentCouncil@falkirk.gov.uk