GRACEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes - Meeting held in school library Monday 27th March 2023 – 6pm

Attendees	Lynn Sinclair, Ross Hunter, Julie Wilson, Lynsey Sneddon, Amanda Farmer, James Anderson, Paula Hamilton, Louise Herbert , Alison Sutherland & Michelle Wright.	
Apologies	Lindsay Aitken & Lorraine Kennedy. Adele Ewing our Chairperson did not attend with no prior notice. Due to Adele's unexpected absent Lynn Sinclair chaired the meeting.	
Previous Minutes	We were unable to agree the previous Minutes as these have not been circulated. AP01 Lorraine Kennedy and Adele Ewing to ensure they are circulated and published on the school web site under Parent Council.	
Chair's Report	There was no Chairperson report as neither the Chair or Vice Chair were able to attend the meeting.	
Treasurer's Report	Current Balance is £815.71. Funding requests had been submitted for consideration of the PC prior to the meeting. A general discussion took place regarding the appropriateness of funding "essential" school items as it was felt this should come from within existing school budgets. PC felt we should be supporting additional or nice to have items such as playground picnic benches etc. It was agreed to establish a Fundraising sub committee of the Parent Council. AP02 Ross Hunter to ask for a staff volunteer and for a couple of pupils from the Pupil Council to be involved. Paula Hamilton, Louise Herbert, agreed to lead on the sub committee with support from James Anderson committee and to enlist help from other parents as necessary, particularly targeting those P7 parents coming up to S1 and the lower year groups within the school to ensure longevity of involvement. It was suggested that the first event for parents be some sort of bingo and pie evening in the Autumn. It was also confirmed that the Miners Welfare Social evening is planned to take place sometime in October. The current funding requests were debated: Duke of Edinburgh Rucksacks – AP03 Lynn to ask if it has to be the model requested as each one costs £147 or if a cheaper alternative could be sourced. PC agreed it was a worthwhile project to fund but cost depends on quantity we can support. HE – Baby baths – AP04 Lynn to ask is 2nd hand baby baths would do and then the school could issue a general request for donation of same as people felt they may have them from their own children. HE 3 x large hospitality pots – this was agreed to be funded. PE Dumb bell weights – this request was not supported. Fiction & Non Fiction reading books from Transition Teachers – this was agreed to be funded on the understanding that Gracemount Primary fund half as this is a joint initiative. James Anderson also requested that they be purchased via the school link with Blackwells and confirmed they would be the same price as at Amazon. Money Matters Health Check to be completed but it was agreed to do this off line.	

Head Teachers Report	Staffing Update Mr Hunter gave a staffing update on current vacancies and departures from the school Senior Report and Estimate Grades Being finalised today and to be sent out asap All change of level communications made home and presentation levels being finalised along with AAA. Learning and Teaching Building on our work a series of learning rounds to quality assurance L&T took place in March with a revaluation of QI 2.3 planned for May. Focus was on identified key areas of development. LI/SC – sharing and visible learning – eliciting evidence of learning. Next step is to share with staff during May and progress next steps. Relationships for Learning Consultation work with Nicola McCallister consultancy completed. Several recommendations being taken forward which have gone live today and been communicated home. Practical applications suggested: • Develop clear expectations for moving between classes, getting to class on time. All staff should aim to be at their classrooms doors every period changeover to support each other and support movement between classes (do we move back to one break to prioritise this)? • Consistent routines for entering a class at the beginning of a period need to be established. This routine/framework is crucial in getting the class 'ready' and setting the tone. Work should be done with teaching staff and PSA's to support this. • A plan for allocating seating that is known and understood by pupils is essential. Class teachers need to minimise pupils swapping seats and wandering around the class. • Clear expectations about speaking in class, hand up before calling out, one voice, reduce constant calling out and shouting over each other are required. Avoid teacher voice becoming 'white noise'. • Clarity around appropriate interactions pupil to staff, pupil to pupil. What is 'good banter' and what has crossed the line. What is the line? Recommendations: 1. The school should prioritise addressing the constant low-level disruptions. This may be achieved by: a. Developing clear routines (proactive in nature) agreed and implemented by all staff and visible in every classroom. b. Collaboratively develop clear and consistent rules and boundaries based on the school values. This approach elicits a sense of safety and predictability. These rules should be few but clearly understood by the whole school community and observed in every class. c. The rules agreed on should be non-negotiable. d. The rules and routines agreed upon need to be broken down, made explicit and practised. e. There should be a clear framework for implementing these	

rules/routines and they should be given high priority.

f. The rules/routines should be visible in every class within the school.

g. It is suggested the school moves away from current stepped actions to a more simplified approach –

2. The school should work to secure pupil buy in. This should include a structured award system. It was noted that pupil responded well to an element of competitiveness in classes. Essentially, ***don't hang your coat on the hook of consequences.***

3. In order to carry out this work staff need to be feeling strong and resilient. The school should consult on what staff need to do this?

4. There needs to be structured flexibility to support pupils with ASN.

Curriculum

KAT –hybrid model 5 minutes registration with 25 minutes of KAT once per week. Programme being developed. Plan to launch May Inset with staff.
Curriculum development and mapping programme progressing. Aim to share first draft with parents in time for next session. Plan is to have full curriculum map in place
We are looking at introducing a DYW Construction Pathway in S3 and S4. In S3 it would be taught in blocks – there would be 3 lessons of theory ideally led by a construction partner and then the 4th week would be a practical task. Topics to be covered are below. We would also look to get an award at this time – possibly Employability L4 but will look and see what else we could get.
S4 progression could be JET or, if pupils are still keen to pursue Construction, the NPA L4 or L5 Construction course offered in school by the college.

Study leave - Letter sent today with plans

Meaningful May – plans underway - Simulate job application process

1. Week 1 - Skills builder
2. Week 2 – CV's and applications
3. Week 3 – mock interview

Attainment Supports

- Grade booster days just being finalised for all subject areas N5 to Higher. Will come out to parents and pupils within the week
- Easter Study - now live and on website.
- Saturday School – STV coming in tomorrow. Progressing well

Attainment Targets

Whole School attainment targets were shared and updated progress was discussed.

Pupil Parliament

We had our second pupil parliament today with over 46 pupils in attendance. 134 voted on issues
Issues raised were:

1. School breaks – pupil overwhelmingly voted to keeping both breaks
2. School Motto – 100 voted to keep and wanted to do more with this. Pupil, staff and parent video.
3. SIP
    a. Behaviour
    b. Teaching – avoid copying out, check more for understanding, more

	regular assessment and feedback, more interactive. c. Curriculum -0 more real life lessons, driving, CV's employment, 4. Structure of Pupil Leadership teams a. Junior and Senior parliament with elected reps. Option for other to attend. b. Prefects to be nominated by staff c. Role of pupil ambassadors in key areas d. Pupil council – 1 rep from each class who ask pupil parliament to raise issues Timetable – currently timetabled S3-6 and looking at S1-2. Issue with S1 roll. Gone above 120 which influences amount of teachers required for English and Maths Investigating a bespoke winter leavers programme – part school/part work placement. D Scott leading on this Parent Consultation – 157 responses as of 12 noon today (163 last session) – final push this week Parent steering group on Monitoring and tracking reports for next session – idea to be discussed. Lynsey Sneddon & Lynn Sinclair expressed an interest.	
AOB	James Anderson asked about school photographs and why they don't seem to be happening. Part of this was COVID related but Julie Wilson thought it has to do with a % of sales/interest required from Tempest the photography company but would check AP05 Julie Wilson to contact Tempest. Lynn closed the meeting by apologising for unplanned changes and thanking everyone for attending.	
Date of Next Meeting	Monday 5th June 2023 – 6pm – School Library	
Minutes Prepared by L Sinclair 31/03/23		