Gracemount High School Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 13th November 2024

Attendees - Alison Sutherland, Sylvia Simpson, Louise Herbert, Katrina Coutts, James Anderson, Suzy Ross, Ross Hunter, Mark Gregor (for presentation).

Apologies - Margaret Cairns, Lindsay Graham, Linda Wardrop, Pamela Hamilton, Rachel Laing.

Presentation By Mark Gregor on Curriculum School Improvement Plan 2024/25.

Chair's Report

<u>Constitution</u>

- LA is certain that there is a PC constitution already in place.
- AS will check the folder she inherited from Lynn to see if there is anything in there regarding this.
- RH offered to email some other HTs but KC advised there is a template on connect which can be used.

- KC will follow up whether we need to review existing or write up a new constitution.

Alcohol at events

- KC attended a Parent Council event which stated that alcohol should not be served at events - it was agreed that GHS PC should switch to non alcoholic beverages.
- There is some wine left in the store - it was agreed that it should be given to the Mission Christmas to be included in their hampers.
- Miss Grisdale will be contacted re this.

Vape sensors

- Vape sensors have been ordered - emit an audible noise if vapes are detected.
- Have to be installed by AMEY - change requests can be lengthy.
- Agreed £400 donation.
- AS has the cheque book - JA advised primary school PTA account has changed to community account which involves some charges; AS advised she has had the same information.
- Virgin money does not charge for similar accounts - worth looking into.

Upcoming Events

- Christmas Concert 18th December - invite only.
- The role of the PC at school events will need to be reviewed moving forward.
- The Barista hut which was at recent parents evening is run by the school and has had a positive effect in engaging some pupils who would not normally be involved. RH keen to utilise this service. This is a cashless service.

Road Safety Infomation

- KC will share the road safety campaign from another Edinburgh School for info.

Treasurer's Report

Balance

- currently £1202.71

Outgoings

- £400 for vape sensors.
- SS reminded everyone about the request at the last meeting for £60 for staff chocolates - all agreed.

Final balance

- £742.71

Head Teachers Report

Staffing update

- Dee Scott left 8/11/24.
- Amanda Lyons from Kingspark Glasgow new DHT.
- Tanya Peters - starts 18/11/24.
- Julie Wilson (guidance) on maternity leave.
- Miss Hannah (art) has had long term absence and is being supported with this. There is a temporary teacher covering from 14/11/24.
- Ms Knight is on maternity leave due and is being covered by Claire Filligan from Perth next term.
- New PSA for additional support (Neil Purves)

Recruitment Training

- 20/11/24 and 22/01/25.
- RH is keen for parents to become involved as it adds to the process.

Self Evaluation Visits

- Local Authority peer 1 day visit 12/12/24 looking at Quality Indicator 3.1 *Inclusivity, Equality and Well being.*
- January 25 - 2 day visit looking at other core Quality Indicators.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Pupil parliament are looking at a vision statement:
  They will finalise 3or 4 statements which will be shared with pupils and parents who will be asked to vote on their preferred choice.
- Learning communication plan:
  Will be finalised December.
  3 statements.
  Meeting 19/11/24.
- Learning and teaching:
  Equality
  Faculty health checks - HWB, Modern languages and Technologies.
  Meet with pupils, focus groups.
- *Walk in their shoes:*
  WB 18/11/24
  3 pupils with additional support needs are chosen and they will be observed on a learning trail.
  Learning/teaching drop in.
  DIfferentiating strategies
  Will add to a portfolio of evidence.
  AS suggested that there is a trail of those pupils who do not wish to go into the classroom in order to identify reasons for this.

“Responsible, Respectful, Safe” assemblies

- what this looks like, including images for accessibility.
- 5 behaviours in the classroom and one for outside the classroom will be launched.

Bonfire night

- school was involved in preventative behaviour.
- Assembly about fire safety.
- A number of parents were called and asked to keep their children in.
- Council agreed this has been a worrying new phenomenon in recent years.

New Reporting system

- Teachers are getting used to a new reporting system from the council.
- Parents should have access now to these online - members of the council reported they had been able to sign up and access these.
- The school will seek feedback on the system from parents later in the school year.

Transition support

- There has been increased focus on the transition and S1 feedback has been positive.
- Eight families also signed up for the recent raising teens with confidence programme and hoping to run it again.

Wellbeing ambassadors.

- 19 pupils have become wellbeing ambassadors
- This is part of pupil leadership and empowerment and pupils will be able to raise issues with them.

Attainment

- set targets for S4-S6 and these will be shared with the PC.

AOB

Academic service

- JA attended with Charlotte, representing the school.
- Positive to have had Gracemount represented there.

Remove & Restore question

- From a parent who had understood children shouldn't be R&R'd into an S5 upwards class. RH explained the aim is to move pupils into a more settled classroom and also limit how far they have to move around the school.
- This is being looked at.

Next Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 21st January 25
6pm in the school Library