

# GLEN URQUHART HIGH SCHOOL

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes

**7pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

Present: Tjeerd van Loon – Head Teacher

Clelland McCallum – Chair

Iona Campbell – Secretary

Louise Fraser – Fundraising Coordinator

John Robins, Dave Cooper, Gemma Ross, Fiona MacKenzie, Louise Power, Julie MacLeod, Lyndsay Fleming, Amanda Luscombe Smith, Michael Thorp, Michelle Thomson, David Fraser (Councillor), Audrey Graesser, Jenny Neill, Anne Dyce, Deirdre Hart, Maria Reynard, Susanna Edwards.

**Welcome and apologies:** Apologies from Eleanor MacInnes, Jill Hodge. Brad Garrison has emailed his apologies also. Clelland Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the outgoing office bearers. Clelland introduced Iona and Louise.

### Follow up from last meeting:

- **Approval of minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> September AGM meeting and Parent Council meeting:** Dierdre Questioned minutes regarding Iona being voted on as an office bearer, Amanda Luscombe Smith proposed, and John Robins seconded for the benefit of anyone who could not remember this formality at the previous meeting. Parent Council normal minutes and AGM minutes were approved.
- **Correspondence:** It was clarified that all outgoing correspondence would for Agendas, minutes etc would go out from the school and all incoming should still be sent to the Parent Council email address, [glenurquhart.high@highlandpc.co.uk](mailto:glenurquhart.high@highlandpc.co.uk).

Action point for Clelland McCallum – Follow up with Ros Bell relating to data protection issue.

- **School Wear – Financial Support:** Clelland said that as we have enough money to pay the previously agreed amount in the account, we will action this and back fill our balance with future fundraising.

Action point - Jill to send £1843.37 to Glen Urquhart High School account with the reference of school wear.

- **Matters arising:** Jill Hodge has agreed to stay on as Treasurer for another year. A GUHS Parent Council Facebook page has been set up for advertising future fundraisers and share any information. If you wish to privately contact the office bearers, please use the official email address.

## 1. Financial Matters:

- **Treasurers Report**

### GUHS Parent Council

Treasurer Update

13 Nov 2024

<u>Opening Balance Sept 2024:</u>		<u>£5,233.79</u>
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Soirbheas Grant for DofE Equipment	Oct 24	£378.12
Bank Interest	Sept – Oct 24	£7.40
<u>Payments Made:</u>		
To School Monies being held from Previous Leavers Fur	Oct 24	£448.30
To Andrew Johnston for purchase of DofE Equipment	Nov 24	£378.12
<u>Closing Balance Nov 2024:</u>		<u>£4,792.89</u>
<u>Reserved Funds</u>		
Monies being held for Drama (Grant)		£115.18
Monies being held from Christmas Show		£2,606.90
<u>Account balance available to Parent Council:</u>		<u>£2,070.81</u>

Jill also advised along with her report that we should look in to getting a new bank account as the current account is introducing a charge for community bank accounts.

Action point for Jill – look into moving bank accounts

- Mr Ross of the English department has applied for a grant to Soirbheas via the Parent Council to take part in the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. He would like his class to do some of their own fundraising but has asked the Parent Council if we can fund any shortfall up to £291.00 for his grant application to be successful.
- Action point - Susanna and Jill to arrange Clelland McCallum, Iona Campbell and Louise Fraser to be added as signatories on the bank account.

- The money in the bank account being held from Christmas Show was questioned. It was agreed that for avoidance of any doubt the money should remain ringfenced in the account for drama and performance arts only and administered by the Parent Council.
- All grant bids must come from the Parent Council email account and into the Parent Council bank account. Jill has set up a spreadsheet to be shared for all current bids.
- Louise Fraser and John Robins shared some future fundraising “Community Day” ideas with the wish to involve all the local communities and feeder primary schools. Louise would like to confirm with primary schools to make sure no dates clash and everyone will be able to attend if they wish and if this is possible. A lot of positive ideas to be discussed in future meeting.

## **2. Parent Council role and engagement with parents, staff and Highland Council:**

- Clelland attended the S1 and S2 parents’ evenings and a community coffee morning to speak to parents about what the Parent Council do and what we can do for parents, he also attended a staff meeting within the school to speak to staff and let them know his views on working together as a team to do the best for our children and young people. Great feedback from both.

## **Head Teacher’s Report and presentation on Curriculum**

(see attached)

## **3. Educational issues:**

- It was discussed that success looks different for individual pupils. We would like to continue to focus on a positive destination for every school leaver. Parents advised the desire for Advanced Highers to be available in the school without the need to relocate to a school in Inverness. Options of arranging transport to do certain subjects was discussed along with them being taught the subjects in our school with more self-study hours. It is a future goal.
- Life skills and managing and understanding credit and finance was a desire from some parents and Tjeerd advised there is a current working group within the staff who are looking at the wider achievement of life skills. Hopefully this will cover this.
- There is to be more communication home regarding the current curriculum offerings. There is a presentation at every parent’s evening but the information will be made accessible, however please be aware that this information is better to have face to face where possible.

- It was brought up that some parents may not have up to date techniques in things like maths to help their children with home studies/homework. Tjeerd along with many attendees agreed that we should let the teachers help the parents who would like to update these skills, so as to help their children. Tjeerd was confident that his staff would be willing to help but will approach them to find their opinions on this matter. All parents who are interested or have other areas they wish to up skill in to help their child at home should contact the parent council.

Action point for Tjeerd and Clelland.

#### **4. Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 7pm – 9pm

Glen Urquhart High School

#### **5. AOCB:**

- John Robin's enquired about the health and wellbeing day which his son had told him about. The day was structured sessions delivered by Mikeysline, Tjeerd Van Loon, Barbara Girvan and The Highland Rugby Club on online safety, benefits of exercise, socialising in person and the services available if anyone needed them anonymously via Mikeysline.
- A sum of money was passed to the Parent Council via Highlife Highland from a private group which will be counted and documented at the next meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8.54pm**