

GLEN URQUHART HIGH SCHOOL

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

7pm Wednesday 11th September 2024.

Present: Tjeerd van Loon-Head Teacher

Eleanor MacInnes-Deputy Head Teacher

Clelland McCallum – Chair (Meeting chaired by Susanna Edwards)

Deirdre Hart- Secretary

Jill Hodge-Treasurer

Conor Lynagh, John Robins, Sarah Farquhar, Dave Cooper, Brad Garrison, Gemma Ross, Corinne McCallum, Fiona MacKenzie, Louise Power, Julie MacLeod, Lyndsay Fleming, Debbie MacKinnon, Diane Gow, Iona Campbell, Amanda Smith, Chris Smith.

Welcome and apologies: Susanna welcomed everyone to the Ordinary meeting and Deirdre confirmed apologies from Katie Keating, Gillian Denovan and Anne Dyce. Clelland agreed he was happy for Susanna to chair this meeting.

Follow up from last meeting:

- 1. Approval of minutes of 12th June meeting:** Deirdre circulated some copies of the June minutes and highlighted a couple of amendments. The first concerned discussion re choices and curriculum, to clarify Tjeerd's preference that if a parent has concerns about this they should contact the school directly not the PC. After discussion it was agreed that it was appropriate to have general discussion about the curriculum offering at PC meetings. Tjeerd agreed the school could share more information on the curriculum offering. We discussed whether this topic merits a separate meeting rather than trying to fit it into a PC meeting. Tjeerd explained sometimes an issue can arise with the timing of asking questions as teachers are planning the curriculum in September but parents often don't have the information to ask questions until February/March. Parents present suggested they would like discussion around information gathering ; what skills are valuable for future employment ; progression of study; equipping pupils to think long term; the maths offering particularly 'Application for maths and Numeracy' as an important alternative. Eleanor pointed out that this is currently available at the school, some parents present were unaware such

alternatives were available. It was agreed it was important to have both options, discussion directly with school either by appointment or at parent's evenings. Susanna felt a further meeting was required, Clelland disagreed and further discussion was pushed to the end of the meeting.

The second amendment concerned the discussion about the show, where potentially some of the comments recorded may have been perceived as negative. Deirdre confirmed this was not the intention but rather the comments were intended to be constructive and supportive. Additional wording has been added to clarify this.

These amendments were agreed, Amanda proposed the June minutes and Dave seconded them. Deirdre will reissue the minutes accordingly.

- 2. Matters arising:** The study bus funding has been secured. Thank you to Alan Hood for applying for the grant and securing the funding. We will discuss fundraising and leavers costs later. Tjeerd confirmed the maths department smartboard is still to be installed and he awaits a response from Highland Council to allow Mitie to proceed. Concern was raised from parents about the lack of action from HC and asked if there was anything PC could do to assist. The funding for it came from HC Ward Discretionary Fund which was applied for by PC, there were conditions attached which we are struggling to fulfil because of HC delay. Tjeerd would pass on the concerns of parents to HC.
- 3. Correspondence:** Deirdre reported correspondence from school about leavers' expenses. Payments have been made for the Leavers' Hoodies and the Leavers' meals from the funds held. PC insurance has been renewed but subsequently superceded by Connect membership. Susanna will share details about Connect membership with parents. We had discussed this briefly at a previous meeting but have now received notification from HC that all PCs were now members of Connect and our insurance was cancelled and switched to insurance through the Connect membership. Connect offers support, resources and advice for PCs. We have also had correspondence re the annual PC funding allocation and Jill will complete this application.
- 4. Treasurer's report:** Jill presented her report as follows:

GUHS Parent Council

Treasurer Update

11 Sept 2024

Opening Balance June 2024:

£6,552.40

Receipts:

Strathglass Community Grant for Study Bus	July 24	£3,900.00
Bank Interest	Jun – Jul 24	£9.83
Bank Interest	Aug 24	£4.48

Payments Made:

To Inverness Trophy Centre (DH) for Leavers Medals	July 24	£90.10
To School for Leavers Meal	Aug 24	£550.00
To School for Leavers Hoodies	Aug 24	£692.82
To school grant money for Study Bus	Sept 24	£3,900.00

Closing Balance Sept 2024:

£5,233.79

Reserved Funds

Monies being held from Previous Leavers Fundraising	£448.30
Monies being held for Drama (Grant)	£115.18
Monies being held from Christmas Show	£2,606.90

Account balance available to Parent Council:

£2,063.41

- 5. Grants:** Louise had emailed invoices for last session's study buses and we should check with Alan if he has been or is able to help in submitting those as required. If anyone has any ideas for grant applications please feel free to suggest them.

Fundraising: We confirmed, as per Tjeerd's request, that our focus for fundraising this year will be for School uniforms and for Activities week. A separate event for each is envisaged. We have a plan for an Activity day and John and Sarah confirmed they would be able to provide Laser clay shooting but not archery. We could have other side activities like beat the goalie and also some catering alongside. After discussion it was agreed it would be better to leave this until Spring, possibly 14th/15th/21st/22nd March. John will email photos and a lay-out plan.

We discussed an earlier event such as a Burns supper or St Andrew's day ceilidh. We were keen not to clash with the well-established Balnain Burns supper. We hope our newly appointed Fundraising coordinator can move this forward with a team to assist.

Deirdre asked whether the PC would be able to have their usual slot manning the kitchen on show nights. Tjeerd explained he would like to give the 6th years first option for this for their own leavers' fundraising.

Iona Campbell said that Louise Fraser has a raft of potential fundraising ideas and mentioned one in the meeting and there was a general consensus that it was a fresh and exciting idea.

Sarah mentioned the marshalling at the Etape and similar events and that students could get involved aswell as parents.

PC engagement and communication: A form had been devised for staff to apply for PC funds. Deirdre will send this to Louise. Parents expressed interest in supporting theatre and arts trips or activities with funding. Fiona Mackenzie advised that this is already being undertaken.

Expenses:

We have had sight of invoices from school relating to vouchers gifted to leavers and school uniform outlays. As above, we will fundraise for school uniforms and pay over whatever is raised at the dedicated event. With regard to the vouchers gifted to last years leavers, after discussion it was felt that they had already benefitted significantly from the “held over” leavers funds from previous years and the remaining held over funds amounting to £448.30 would be paid over to school to be held for this year’s leavers. As agreed in a previous meeting, school would now hold the funds raised by leavers on their behalf rather than the PC. No specific amount was agreed to be raised/paid over for uniforms or activities week, we would fundraise and pass over whatever is raised at each dedicated event. We have a current balance of approx £2000 and we discussed passing over a sum of money at this stage to assist with already incurred expenses but after discussion we agreed to hold these funds so we could be sure we would also be free to consider other requests for funding aswell as usual repeat outlays such as contributions towards meals on trips and Easter eggs for the fun run. Tjeerd said that he would supply us with a price before we had to transfer money for uniforms.

Head Teacher’s report: This was not presented at the meeting due to time constraints . See attached report.

AOCB.

1. Susanna explained she is creating a parental working group to talk about digital issues and data handling within the schools in the glen. The aim is to understand and be informed on these issues. She is aware of a next generation data management system being rolled out and is concerned to understand more about this and how and what data is held. Others mentioned this type of data recording is not unique to schools/education and is commonplace in other sectors and public services. The idea is that this is done for the greater good and with the child at the centre and that the government use the data to inform funding needs for local authorities and schools. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this or joining the working group please contact Susanna. Clelland advised that this is not a Parent Council role.

2. Deirdre advised a parent had enquired whether anything would be happening at school for Hallowe'en. It was confirmed the Hospitality class usually put on a party for the s1s. There was no plan for any evening event. There could be a dress up day perhaps.
3. Dave enquired whether any school trips were planned. Tjeerd mentioned potential forward planning for another Spain trip.
4. Amanda explained a lady in the community had very kindly donated some material to her with the specific request that it be used for costumes for the school show. She handed over the material to Louise to pass on to whoever would be involved with costumes.
5. Dates for next meetings: We had previously discussed alternating the day of meetings so that hopefully more or others could attend rather than always on a Wednesday. However our next meeting will be Weds 13th November and we will discuss this again and confirm dates for the February, April, June and September 2025 meetings at the start of the November meeting.

No date was confirmed for a curriculum meeting, Clelland advised that this would be discussed at the next PC meeting where all parents could contribute to the discussion.

The meeting closed at 21.33