

**MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 @ 6:30pm**  
**GREENWOOD ACADEMY**  
**PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Present:** C McGuire - Head Teacher, C le Maitre – Chairperson, L McDade, T Blackley, S Johnson, C McKinlay - Secretary

**Apologies:** G Spence, L McQuaker, H & D Gilbert

**Resignations:** P Thorpe, M McCluckie, R Vance

**1. Welcome**

C le Maitre opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. She welcomed Catherine McKinlay as new Secretary and Lesley McDade to her first meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Previous minutes not available for this meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

- C le Maitre opened a discussion regarding the need for a new Treasurer following the resignation of Richard Vance.
- C le Maitre will check if L McQuaker is 3<sup>rd</sup> signature. **Action: C le Maitre**
- Numbers of parents on the email list healthy but meetings are not well attended.
- Survey sent out last term prompted three new email addresses joining the Parent Council but this has not provided more attendees at meetings.
- Possible reasons causing lack of interest discussed. Parents generally interested in the information received from the Meetings but not in attending them.
- Ideas generated to improve the situation included more informal meetings; items for discussion that parents find interesting eg Show My Homework; transition from Primary School to Secondary; asking parents what they would like to discuss at meetings. C McGuire said that getting the right balance was important.
- Large attendance at Parent Council when the Lawthorn bus was under threat.

**4. AGM**

The Group discussed a new name for the AGM to encourage more interest and make the annual meeting more informal sounding. Decision made to call it an “Open Doors” evening as a forum for parents. The official Parent Council meeting to be held immediately after as the constitution requires an AGM to be held. C le Maitre said the Constitution, as it stands, can be changed but a vote would be required to do this.

The following points were agreed for the evening:

To be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6:30pm.

Flipcharts to be provided with the following headings:

- What would you like to be discussed at the Meetings?
- What can we do to make it more likely you would come to some of the Meetings?
- What is working for you in regard to the meetings and information from them?
- What can you do for the Parent Council?
- Suggestions for alternative name for Parent Council Meetings?

Post-its and pens to be provided for parents to add their thoughts.

Following suggested stalls would be of interest with 10 minutes at each. Pupils can be enlisted to help, this would count towards their volunteering points:

- GABA (Greenwood Against Bullying Alliance) Stall -to be run by pupils
- Leaflet explaining the Parent Council group remit could be handed out
- Pupil Council
- School Ambassadors
- STEM
- Head Teacher
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Show My Homework
- Digital Literacy

C McGuire mentioned that if childcare was required for parents we would need to organise this in advance. The school has pupils who could take care of this. A poster could also be designed by a child and put on the school website. S Johnson said that perhaps a GIF for twitter would be appropriate.

C le Maitre said she will send an email to parents regarding the “Open Doors” evening and the meeting held after it.

**Action: C le Maitre**

C McGuire proposed topics for this session’s meetings:

- Vision of School – C McGuire will be giving this talk.
- Improvement Plan – raising attainment in literacy, exceptional results obtained this year. David Cornyn, Faculty Leader could be given an opportunity to discuss.
- Health and Wellbeing – Grant Cockerill, Faculty Leader could be asked to discuss Mental Health First Aid as the school has a number of staff trained in this area.
- GABA – this could be pupil led.
- Quality indicators – we could look at parental input for this.
- Curriculum Planning – agenda across school.
- PEF update.
- Digital Literacy
- Campus Police – C Tate, our new full-time Campus Police Officer could address issues eg drugs, internet safety, social media. S Johnson said she thinks engagement with our Campus Police Officer gives a positive image of the Police Force.

## 5. Head Teacher’s Report

C McGuire handed out the September Report.

Topics discussed:

**Learning and Teaching** – staff had a “Back to the Classroom” experience during the in-service day.

**Support for Pupils** – Terrific turn-out of pupils at the start of the session with pupils looking super smart. Senior pupils who miss an afternoon, miss a third of their coursework for exam subjects. Susan England, School Counsellor, available to pupils 4 days a week in Tutorial Room. Details of new clubs and activities available on Glow and “Show My Homework” where parents and carers can access the Daily Bulletin. Scholar an on-line study support system for senior pupils, passwords have been issued. British Sign Language – opportunities for pupils and staff to gain an SQA Award, An introduction to Sign Language.

**Attainment and Achievement** – Senior Prize-giving celebrated many of the successes of Senior pupils. Six students achieved Gold level in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, our first school group to achieve this. Awards were presented at Holyrood Palace during the summer holidays. Congratulations to Gary who signed for Sunderland Deaf Football Club.

**Staffing** – 7 new probationers welcomed into School this session. Ms Stuart joins us part-time in Maths. Mrs Doig and Mrs MacDougall both join the Senior Management Team in temporary posts, Mr Campbell takes up the PT Guidance post. Mrs Boax and Ms Rowatt (Science) appointed to share guidance posts. Ms Dunstall and Ms Reid started new promoted posts at Ayr Academy and Ardrossan Academies respectively. SMT and Guidance responsibilities listed on the Head Teacher’s Report.

**Parental Engagement** – Community Cooking programme running again this session. Digital Literacy event for S1 parents this week. Opportunities for parents to carry out voluntary work in Greenwood, skills matched with interests. Please contact School Office in first instance and leave contact details.

**Communication** – Follow us on Twitter. If no Twitter account Google us at Greenwood\_Acad to access all our information. Currently 2,110 followers. Target is 3,000.

Full Report will be uploaded to the School Website.

**6. Any Other Business**

No further business raised.

**7. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at 6:30pm - “Open Doors” followed by Parent Council Meeting within Greenwood Academy.

Dates for meetings thereafter, 5 November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December (to be confirmed).