

Grantown Grammar School Parent Council Open Forum
Held at the school on 27th August 2013 at 6.30pm

Apologies

Sally Pilkington

Present

Giles Baker	Chair, Parent Council
Irene Carson	Head Teacher
Claire McGonigal	Depute Head Teacher
Ollie Bray	Depute Head Teacher
Karen Smith	Treasurer
Lindsay Coleman	Clerk
Lynne Stephens	
Elaine Cullen	
Zoe Cooke	
Ene – Karmen Forsyth	
Clr Jaci Douglas	
Liz Amphlett	
Stuart and Louisa Cockram	
Louise Ogilvy	

It had been decided previously that this Parent Council meeting was to be an Open Forum. At the start of the meeting Management from the school, Irene Carson, Claire McGonigal and Ollie Bray were present and Irene outlined the way she would like to see future meetings run. She feels that Parent Council should be a place for parents to become empowered with knowledge to help them become better equipped to face the pressures and issues facing them. In particular she mentioned, and was backed up by Claire McGonigal, the importance of parent awareness when it comes to social media. Irene wants parents to feel free to come forward voicing their concerns, and believes that if the community at large is happy, this will ultimately lead to a happy school.

After her presentation Management from the school left the meeting with the understanding that Giles and Ene would report back to Irene. The group then introduced themselves before breaking for refreshments and a chance to chat informally.

A summary of the meeting that followed:

1. Giles informed the group that two people have come forward for Andy Liggat's Communications role. It was agreed that a bottle of wine and a mouse mat will be organised for a leaving gift for Andy.

Action - Giles

2. Giles ran through a list of roles the Parent Council plays

Fundraises

Helps with policy at the school

Manages its own website and the forthcoming blog

Relays concerns of parents to the school, ie the school bus, safety, cyberbullying

It is a charity

It can apply for grants

It aims to keep parents informed

They man the cloakroom at the school disco!

3. The group would like an internet awareness evening, a repeat of the session run by Ollie Bray.

Action - Giles

4. They would also be interested in a road safety meeting, although this may take place in Inverness. Jaci Douglas volunteered to investigate this.

Action – Jaci

5. Jaci mentioned that there is a ‘Teenage Brain’ course that is available and the group were keen to know more about this.

Action – Jaci

6. Karen Smith discussed with the group the need to keep fundraising and emphasised that when ideas are raised, that someone needs to project manage them through to completion. She also asked if anyone would be willing to take over looking after the Lucky Numbers.

7. Lynne Stephens voiced concern about the new online system in place at CairnGorm Mountain for purchasing Highland Junior ski passes.

Action - Giles

8. Lynne also brought up the Commonwealth Games. Lynne volunteered to register the school on the website for Commonwealth Games tickets.

Action - Lynne

9. It was agreed that Giles would speak with Irene regarding inviting house captains to at least part of Parent Council meetings. It was felt that it would be good for them to have the chance to raise any points that they or other pupils may have and would be a chance for the Parent Council to become more in tune with them. They would have time prioritised to them and would then be free to leave after this part of the meeting.

Action - Giles

10. For the next school disco it was agreed that Sally Pilkington will contact some of the new volunteers this year to help out.

Action - Sally

11. Irene would like help finding parent volunteers to help at the sponsored walk. It was suggested that on the letter that goes out with the sponsorship form, there should be a request for help. Giles will also discuss with the school the possibility of having a ‘one form per family’ policy for the walk.

Action – Giles

12. Jaci Douglas raised concerns about the new Flexible Tuesdays. It has already been agreed that Irene will talk about this at the AGM in September and then parents will have the opportunity to discuss this further at the meeting.

13. It was agreed that the Open Forum style meeting was favoured by everyone and the meeting after the AGM will take this style again.

14. Date for the AGM is 24th September starting at 7pm and ending at 9pm.