

## **Hutchesons' Grammar School Association**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Beaton Road on Wednesday 19 May 2008

### **Present**

Mr John Kyle (Chair)  
Mrs Elaine Lonergan  
Dr Cherie Rodney  
Mrs Patricia Crawford  
Mrs Catherine Paton  
Mrs Julie Whitelaw  
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)  
Mrs Sheila Galbraith  
Mrs Susan Wilson  
Mrs Karen McDonald  
Dr Lesley Russell (57 Group)  
Mrs Joyce Beattie  
Mr Brian MacBride

### **Attending**

Mr I Keter

### **Apologies**

Dr K Greig  
Mr A. K. Denholm  
Mr A Ramsay  
Mrs Sue Fraser  
Dr Donna Corrigan  
Dr Sanjeev Chitnis

### **1. WELCOME**

Mr Kyle welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Brian MacBride, representing the Former Pupils Association. Congratulations were also given to Mrs Joyce Beattie on her well deserved promotion to Depute Rector.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted as above.

### **3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were read at the Meeting and approved.

Proposed: Mr John Kyle

Seconded: Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane

*Subsequent to the meeting the Minutes were amended to reflect the discussion on standards of school uniform, omitted in error from the original Minutes.*

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

- I. Exam Leave.** Concern was expressed by some S4 parents regarding the length of time pupils were absent from school. It appears that Hutchesons' Grammar School allows approx. 4 weeks leave. It was acknowledged that this was due to the spread of Standard Grades and Intermediate 2's and the majority of parents wanted clarification of why HGS mix both exams when other state and independent schools do not. The main comment was that this extended period was not being utilized for studying and that parents would prefer the school provided additional structured teaching time. As a result they felt their children were being disadvantaged at a critical time of year and they were not getting value from their school fees. Iain Keter to pass this comment to the Rector.
- II. Speeding.** Complaints have been received from parents regarding the speed of cars on Glencairn Drive. The police have requested written complaints from anyone wishing the installation of speed bumps.
- III. E-mail addresses.** New parent forms requesting e-mail addresses do not provide adequate space.
- IV. Thanks.** P3 parents wished to express their thanks for the resolution of their situation.

#### **5. RECTOR'S UPDATE**

In the Rector's absence Mr Iain Keter provided an update.

**I. New running track and all weather pitch.** Plans are at the stage of being submitted to the Planning Department and over the summer tenders will be invited for this project. Work is intended to commence Easter 2009 to be available for use start of Session 2010. The Development Office is organising a fundraising campaign. They have already received a donation of £250,000 towards their campaign. The track will be to a professional athletics grade and the all weather pitch is to be exclusively reserved for hockey use. On site rugby training will still be accommodated in the remaining grass area. Full details and a model will soon be available. Glasgow City Council have expressed an interest in utilising the facilities for the Commonwealth Games. The school may "adopt" a Commonwealth country, forge links and make the grounds available for training.

**II. Exams and Shows.** This is an extremely busy period for the school. The external exams are now taking place. The senior school production, "Fiddler on the Roof" will be on 16-19 June in the Assembly Hall, Beaton Road and the P1 Show is currently on for two evenings this week.

**III. Retirals.** There are a number of significant retirals this session:

Graham MacAllister  
Carol Stevenson  
Sue Cowling  
Eileen McLean  
Al Reid

Alison Chapman  
Barbara Jarvie

A separate dinner is to be hosted by the Trust for GWAM. Anyone wishing to contribute to specific retiral funds should contact the school office.

## **6. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT – Ceilidh Sat March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**

Update provided by Dr Lesley Russell.

Feed back from the event has been very positive. The event made a profit in excess of £1,000. A request was made to purchase sheets of fairy lights from the proceeds. Thanks were given to the 1957 Group for their support in running the event.

## **7. CAREERS CONVENTION – Weds 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Update provided by Mrs Catherine Paton.

This event was a great success. It was well attended and many consultants offered their time again for next year. Feedback from pupils requested additional time between appointments. This is to be incorporated into the timetable for next year. The spreadsheets listing consultants are to be updated to highlight continuity of contact people.

## **8. AGM- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Last years AGM was technically outwith the specified period. The suggested date for this year's diary is 24<sup>th</sup> September. The constitution dictates a quorum of 50 people. Suggestions were put forward to link the AGM with another event to improve attendance. The favourite choice was to link with a formal launch of the fundraising campaign for the new sports facility, showing the model and having a guest speaker. John Kyle is to review the existing format of the letter to parents which announces the AGM.

Each representative was encouraged to engage with other parents in their year groups to attend the AGM. A special emphasis should go to parents with children involved in running/hockey clubs to encourage them to attend.

## **9. UPDATE FROM 1957 GROUP**

An update was provided by Dr Lesley Russell.

The 1957 Group recently opened a "shop" in a unit behind the Drama Department. It was opened on a Saturday morning as a trial. It was very successful and was given a positive response from all parents who visited. Due to exam leave the Group had only been able to attract parents from the junior school. Means of alerting the senior school parents are being investigated.

Sports Day, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, the Group will provide a tuck shop, ice cream and uniform sale.

The main Uniform Sale will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00-11.30am. The Group requested the help of School Association year group representatives in advertising the sale and possibility of recruiting new helpers to run the event.

Donations of a voucher to the value of a school blazer and a case of champagne have been donated to the Group and these will be raffled at the P7 and senior school show to raise funds.

## **10. AOCB**

Other issues were raised were as follows:

- I. A request was made for a waterproof jacket with a hood for boys and girls. The new waterproof hockey jacket does not have a hood. This is to be passed to the PE Dept.
- II. P5/6 Swimming Gala this year excluded a small number of children. A request was made for future events for non-participating children to be asked either to support their team or to participate in a fun swim event.
- III. A complaint has been received regarding the delay in posting the HGSA minutes. It was explained the minutes require to be approved at the following meeting before they can be posted on the website.
- IV. It was announced that Mrs Sue Fraser had undergone a liver transplant and the good news was she is now out of high dependency. The HGSA expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd**

**AGM – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7pm – Auditorium, Fotheringay Centre**