

## **Hutchesons' Grammar School Association**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Beaton Road on Monday 18th May 2009

### **Present**

Mr John Kyle (Chair)  
Mrs Elaine Lonergan  
Mrs Yvonne Welsh  
Dr Cherie Rodney  
Mrs Patricia Crawford  
Mrs Wendy Crawford  
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)  
Mrs Susan Wilson  
Mrs Sheila Galbraith  
Dr Sanjeev Chitnis  
Mrs Catherine Paton  
Mrs Karen McDonald  
Mrs Jane Thomson

### **Attending**

Dr K Greig  
Mr I Keter  
Mr Brian MacBride  
Mrs Rhona Gann (57 Group)

### **Apologies**

Mr A. K. Denholm  
Mr Alistair Carson  
Mrs Fiona Godsman  
Mrs Helen Smith

### **1. WELCOME**

Mr Kyle opened the meeting and welcomed all the committee members including Mrs Rhona Gann representing the 1957 Group.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted as above.

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

The Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 23rd February 2009 were read at the Meeting. Corrections were noted and the resulting minutes approved.

Proposed: Mrs Sheila Galbraith

Seconded: Dr Sanjeev Chitnis

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

There were no matters arising.

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

##### **I. Events since last meeting.**

1. The Herald article regarding pupil's disruptive end of term high jinks was largely inaccurate. The newspaper had not checked for accuracy and the school was only notified late on the evening before publication. Dr Sanjeev Chitnis asked if the school had considered presenting their own case and the Rector said this was under discussion.
2. The effect of the recession on school roll. The Rector reported so far there had only been a very small amount of parents taking children out of school due to job losses and there had not been a drop in numbers applying for places. Dr Greig said the school was 'tightening belts' and looking into ways of keeping costs to parents down. They were reviewing costs of school trips.
3. Curriculum for Excellence. HGS has been following the principles behind this new system. This is not a change but a shift of emphasis and is a move to a more diverse style of teaching which fits well with HGS.  
Scottish Baccalaureate- will be available from next year- applying to approximately sixty pupils taking science and languages. Pupils staying on and taking these subjects can gain this award. It also involves an additional internal project.  
HGS has no plans to do the International Baccalaureate.
4. Staff. There are no staff leaving to join other schools and there will be five retirements. At Kingarth Street there will be more staff movement between years to allow at least one new teacher to join each year group. Staff will stay with a year group for four to five years before moving on.
5. Dr Greig gave assurances that building work on the running track was not disturbing the exam timetable.
6. Mr Keter reported the running track project was now at Week 7, slightly ahead of schedule and on schedule for an end of September completion, weather dependant.

Excavation	100% complete
Sub base	100% complete
Drainage	95% complete
Kerbing	40% complete

Mr Keter reported a very successful 'Going for Gold' ball and re-emphasised it was not too late to consider donating to the commemorative wall as this is an ongoing campaign.

## **6. CAREERS CONVENTION – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

(Catherine Paton, Fiona Godsman, Susan Wilson, Sheila Galbraith, Helen Smith, Sanjeev Chitnis, John Kyle)

John Kyle thanked Jane and Catherine for organising another great success. There had been very positive feedback from pupils, parents and staff and the pupils had been very appreciative.

It was suggested a better method of how the list of contacts was delegated to committee members should be investigated. It was suggested using all the GHSA committee to lessen the work load and spread the contact base.

An earlier start time was also suggested.

The date for next year was to be 10<sup>th</sup> March.

This year the event was only one week after returning from holiday. Next year it will another week later. This will hopefully make preparation easier.

## **7. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT**

(Alistair Carson, Elaine Lonergan, Yvonne Welsh, Cherie Rodney, Patricia Crawford, Lindesay MacFarlane)

Lindesay MacFarlane reported due to the absence of the group convener and a combination of the Going for Gold Ball and the 1957 Group Dance the group was not organising a social function this year.

## **8. 1957 GROUP UPDATE**

An update was provided by Mrs Rhona Gann.

The Kingarth Street stage renovation was now complete.

The group had raised £250 in a raffle at the P7 show.

The latest donation (£2,000) was to a newly formed film unit.

Reminder – date for Quiz Night – 17<sup>th</sup> September. All comments had been taken on board to ensure it was going to be another successful event. Entry applications can be made right up to the day of the event.

Preparations were underway for the Annual Uniform Sale.

Mrs Gann asked for the school to consider allocating alternative accommodation for the second hand uniform shop as the current portacabin was not water tight. Mr Keter said he would see what could be found.

Dr Greig explained a group of teachers had approached him regarding how pupils could explore making films. The 1957 Group donation was to be used to purchase a dedicated Mac and associated software. The unit would be wishing to purchase a digital camera and sound equipment in the future. The Rector thanked the 1957 Group for contributing to this unit.

## 9. AOCB

Other issues raised were as follows:

- I. AGM - diary date 30<sup>th</sup> September. Suggestions for the evening were discussed. ***NB – This date was subsequently changed to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009.***
- II. P7 boys PE tops - New PE kit discussions are underway.
- III. 3rd Year Exam Leave – Parents had concerns two weeks was too long. Dr Greig reported that the SMT had discussed this topic the previous week. While there was an educational case for pupils to experience study leave early on they were trying to compress it from two weeks to one and a half weeks. It was always an option to have supervised study in the library.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd**