

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Beaton Road on Monday 7th
September 2009

Present

Mr John Kyle (Chair)
Mrs Elaine Lonergan
Dr Cherie Rodney
Mrs Fiona Godsman
Mrs Patricia Crawford
Mrs Wendy Crawford
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)
Mrs Susan Wilson
Mrs Sheila Greer
Mrs Helen Smith
Dr Sanjeev Chitnis
Mrs Karen McDonald
Mrs Jane Thomson

Attending

Dr K Greig
Mr I Keter
Mr Brian MacBride
Mrs Lesley Russell (57 Group)

Apologies

Mrs Yvonne Welsh
Mrs Catherine Paton
Mr A. K. Denholm
Mr Alistair Carson

1. WELCOME

Mr Kyle opened the meeting and welcomed all the committee members to the start of the new term.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 18th May 2009 were read at the Meeting and were approved.

Proposed: Mr John Kyle

Seconded: Mr Brian MacBride

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. RECTOR'S UPDATE

I. Dr Greig summarised the school external exam results and presented the departmental exam results. These will be available on the school website in due course. This year's results were the best since 1996.

Helen Smith commented on the 14 pupils who failed Higher English and enquired how we could help these pupils. Dr Greig replied that these pupils had been identified beforehand, given support but were cautioned they may not pass.

John Kyle commended the Rector for his leadership and the teachers for their expertise in obtaining such remarkable results this year.

II. Discussions are still ongoing with OSCR. A draft plan is now in place and the school expects an agreement to be made by the end of October.

III. Pitch and Track - Ian Keter reported after a good early start progress had been held up due to the wet weather conditions in August. There were now only a few outstanding tasks to be completed. There would then be a commissioning period for maintenance and operational use before the track would be handed over. The Director of Sport anticipated gaining access after the October holiday.

Fiona Godsman enquired about use of the track from outside parties. It was reported that there had been several notes of interest. The school would have first access to the facility then it would be a balance of wear and tear on allowing access to outside parties.

Mr Keter reminded the Committee fundraising was ongoing and it was still possible to buy track names.

6. CAREERS CONVENTION – Wednesday 4th March 2009

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

The next Careers Convention will be an extra week after the February holiday. It was discussed whether holding the supper earlier would be of benefit to consultants.

7. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT

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

Plans for next year would commence after the AGM.

8. 1957 GROUP UPDATE

An update was provided by Mrs Lesley Russell.

Mrs Russell reminded the committee of the Quiz Night in September and the Winter Fair on Sat 21st November. The 1957 Group was pleased to announce they had raised £16,000 for the school this year and they were holding their AGM in October.

9. AOCB

Other issues raised were as follows:

- I. AGM - A change to the diary date has been made. It will now be Tuesday 20th October at Kingarth Street with the junior choir singing. Representatives would be required next year for P1,2,5,7 and S1,3 and 6.
- II. Patricia Crawford enquired why S3 pupils required such an expensive graphic calculator (£70). It was explained it was required for Higher Maths. It was introduced at this stage to ensure pupils were experienced using it by the time it was required for Higher work.
- III. Elaine Lonergan questioned the P1 Show on behalf of a group of P1 parents. Outside school there had been a discussion about the role of the show. Several parents were questioning whether the children understood the Latin content. Dr Greig replied the P1 Show was a Hutchie tradition and the majority of comments passed on to him were very positive in praise of the show.
- IV. Swine Flu – Dr Greig confirmed the school was following guidelines set out by the Department of Health.
- V. Helen Smith following her previous enquiry about school use of 'old buses' wanted to know the current status. Dr Greig said this was an ongoing battle. Whilst the 'old yellow bus' did pass vehicle legislation he has informed the bus company the school does not want to use it. Dr Greig reassured Mrs Smith he would remind the bus company.

John Kyle thanked retiring members of the committee for their support of the school and the association.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 16th November 2009 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd