

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Beaton Road on Monday 16th November 2009

Present

Mr John Kyle (Chair)
Mrs C Macaulay
Mrs Elaine Lonergan
Dr Cherie Rodney
Mrs Fiona Godsman
Mrs Alina Zahoor
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)
Mrs Fiona McCrae
Mrs Sheila Galbraith
Mrs Helen Smith
Mrs Marion Leslie
Mrs Karen McDonald
Mrs Jane Thomson

Attending

Mr I Keter
Mrs Christine Bingham (1957 Group)

Apologies

Mr A. K. Denholm
Dr K Greig
Mrs Wendy Crawford
Mr Brlain MacBride

1. WELCOME

Mr Kyle opened the meeting and welcomed the new committee members, Claire Macaulay, Fiona McCrae, Marion Leslie and Christine Bingham 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 7th September 2009 were read at the Meeting and were approved.

Proposed: Mrs Fiona Godsman
Seconded: Mrs Elaine Lonergan

4. MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Susie Rodgers has volunteered to represent P2.

Cherie Rodney and Sheila Galbraith both noted they did not receive an e-mail copy of the previous meeting minutes.

No further matters were reported.

5. RECTOR'S UPDATE

In the Rector's absence Mr Keter reported the following.

I. A new Depute Rector, Head of Primary, has been appointed: Mrs Christine Haughney, Head Teacher of Calderwood Lodge Primary School, Newlands. She will be joining Kingarth Street in August 2010.

II. The new pitch and track sports stadium was officially opened by Mrs Alix Stevenson (née Jamieson). It is now being well used by pupils and has been much admired by visitors. Further details and photos of the opening can be found in the Hutchie Herald.

III. There have been 24 Oxbridge applications this year. This is the highest number of applicants for some time.

IV. OSCR Progress: The school has now completed and submitted their plan and are confident it will meet requirements to maintain the charitable status.

6. AGM REVIEW

All agreed Kingarth Street made a good a venue and in future the AGM could alternate between both sites.

It was noted pupils present were all wearing uniform in a presentable manner and in general there had been a big improvement in presentation standards.

There was a discussion of how to distribute the balance of funds in the HGSA account: £2,598. Karen McDonald suggested additional B-bot computers for P1-3 would be appreciated as classes were required to share at present. Karen McDonald to bring a quote to the next meeting.

It was noted again this year how few parents attended. Additionally it was commented there were no new names put forward to represent any year group. There followed a discussion on how the school could interact with parents in a better way.

7. CAREERS CONVENTION

Catherine Paton agreed to continue organising the event in 2010. This year it was agreed all committee members would share responsibility for contacting subject experts. This year the list will be issued in advance to facilitate members identifying areas they are familiar with. Pupils are required to return forms by 4th December and a date in January would be possible to sort out the list.

The registration fee raised £600 last year. Nobody on the committee submits any expense claims and the school covers the cost of refreshments. A discussion then followed whether it was appropriate to continue charging a registration fee. No final conclusion was made and this should be followed up at the next meeting.

8. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT

The format of a family social event was discussed for this years function. No final decision was made. All members encouraged to come back to next meeting with alternative ideas.

9. 1957 GROUP UPDATE

An update was provided by Mrs Christine Bingham.

I. Ceilidh to be held on 30th January. All committee members encouraged to advertise/ attend this event.

Winter Fair to be held the following Saturday. Helpers were still required and any volunteers from the committee would be very welcome.

II. There was to be a new S6 Common Room; it would function as an internet café with wireless facilities for S6 only. The 1957 Group were in discussions with the school to donate to this project.

III. Uniform sales usually raise around £5,000 each year. The room allocated to storing donated items has now been set up as a shop and is successfully being used after school and recently a lunch time sale was organised with the help of the PE department. The condition of this room is now deteriorating and the 1957 Group asked if alternative facilities could be found. Iain Keter said he would look into this. A discussion then followed regarding PE kit and the scheduled phasing of any new designs. Iain Keter to check with PE department.

10. AOCB

Other issues raised were as follows:

- I.** A comment was made about the different stages changes were made to girls and boys uniform at Kingarth Street ie pinafore to skirt while boys changed from shorts to trousers at a later stage.
- II.** A comment was made regarding the amount of Jewish dates in the school calendar and whether there was any particular reason for this. It was explained all major religious dates were included in the calendar with no special bias towards any special one.
- III.** It was noted when S6 references are prepared it was possible that a pupil could have a new form tutor who collates their references. Although the individual references were prepared by teachers well known to the pupil the final reference could be prepared by someone who has only known the pupil for a short time. It was requested if pupils find they have a new form tutor could a better contact person prepare the reference. Jane Thomson explained the school worked hard to compile references in the best possible way and thought Dr Greig would be able to answer this request. Iain Keter to mention this to Dr Greig.
- IV.** A request was made for P2 slower readers to access simple books relevant to their reading stage in the main library at Kingarth Street.

Karen McDonald confirmed there were areas with suitable books and she would speak to the librarian to ensure pupils were directed to the relevant books.

- V. Another request was made to highlight concerns regarding road safety at school assembly. Many pupils continue to be distracted by iPods/mobile phones while crossing at junctions outside school.
- VI. A request was made for the school to sell hat and glove sets as parents were finding it difficult to find small blue woollen gloves. The 1957 Group said they would look into supplying gloves.
- VII. There was an enquiry re pupil access to drinking water. It was confirmed there were drinking water wells in the toilets.
- VIII. A comment was made regarding the availability of sweets in the vending machines at Beaton Road and that some local authority schools do not allow them at all. Iain Keter reported the school also stocks the vending machines with healthy options.
- IX. A parent enquired when study techniques were introduced. It was explained these were covered in PSE and in form class.
- X. It was enquired whether the school participated in the Glasgow Music Festival.

John Kyle thanked everyone for a lively meeting and asked Iain Keter to pass on many of the questions to Dr Greig.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 18th November 2009 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd