

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

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

Present

Mr John Kyle (Chair)
Mrs S Rodgers
Mrs Elaine Lonergan
Mrs Fiona Godsman
Mrs Alina Zahoor
Mrs Wendy Crawford
Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Minutes)
Mrs Fiona McCrae
Mrs Sheila Galbraith
Mrs Helen Smith
Mrs Marion Leslie
Mrs Catherine Paton
Mrs Karen McDonald
Mrs Jane Thomson

Attending

Mr David Dobson
Mr I Keter
Mrs Christine Bingham (1957 Group)
Dr K Greig
Mr Brian MacBride

Apologies

Mrs Clare Macaulay
Mrs Yvonne Welsh
Dr Cherie Rodney

1. WELCOME

Mr Kyle opened the meeting and welcomed the new committee members Mrs Susie Rodgers and Mr David Dobson, the recently appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting which was held on 16th November 2009 were not available for full circulation and will be read at the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- I.** Karen McDonald reported Kingarth Street was requesting new lighting for the refurbished stage. This would benefit the whole school rather than the small computers specifically for the infant department. Iain Keter requested items to augment the new sports stadium. John Kyle requested quantified proposals from Karen and Iain for review at next meeting.
- II.** In reply to a question from the previous meeting the Rector explained it was a historical decision to change uniform for girls from pinafore to skirt in P4 and boys to change from shorts to long trousers in P5. This could be reexamined by the new depute rector next year.
- III.** The Rector explained the S6 tutor system was responsible for writing UCAS references. These were a coalition of academic facts relating to the pupils and it was not necessary to know the character of the pupil. If parents had any concerns they should speak directly to the tutor.
- IV.** The Rector reported road safety had been addressed recently in school assembly.
- V.** The Rector explained individual pupils did participate in the Glasgow Music Festival while ensembles did not. This was because the Festival took place in mid March at a time when there were a lot of school concerts being organized.

5. RECTOR'S UPDATE

- I.** OSCR judgement. The submitted plan has been successful and we have two years to comply with the plan. If we fulfil the plan within this period we will be deemed to have passed the test. More details will be released to the Hutchie community shortly. The commitments were to increase bursaries (as a percentage of school roll who get help and the amount of money given) also to widen community work and local community access.
There followed a discussion on whether details were to be given to parents. Iain Keter emphasised the financial plans were not for the public domain. Several parents cautioned the Freedom of Information Act would allow public access to those wishing to find out.
- II.** Christmas Concerts – New Format. This year there was a 'festive concert' in the main assembly hall and 'lessons and carols' in the Fotheringay hall. The Rector was looking for feedback on this change of presentation. This year it will be on 6th December in the City Halls. Parents commented it was an enjoyable night despite the poor weather. It was not mentioned on the ticket mulled wine and mince pies were available in the dining room before the concert started and this caused confusion and long waiting times outside the assembly hall. This will be noted for future festive concerts.
- III.** In the run up to Christmas the PE Department put a lot of effort into organising Ceilidhs and the Rector enquired how these were perceived. There were a lot of positive comments – 'The S5/6 was one of the best' and 'P7 dance was wonderful'.

IV.The Rector informed the committee of the sad passing away of Jane Rae, music administrator. Jane was a much respected and much loved member of staff. Her memorial service was very moving and was attended by many staff and friends from Hutchie. She had struggled with her health over many years.

V. The Rector thanked parents for their calmness and perseverance in getting pupils to school during the bad snow conditions. An outbreak of Ugg boots was observed during this period and following a request to remove them on entering the school this epidemic was remedied.

VI. UCAS forms had been dealt with promptly and lots of good offers were now being accepted – 7 Oxbridge acceptances so far with a couple still waiting.

VII.Hutchie eNewsletter – recently released. This is hoped to be updated monthly and more frequently in future if successful. Karen Woods and Mike Martin have editorial control. It was noted that both the HGSA and the 1957 Group could use this to publicise events to parents.

VIII.The school was working with suppliers on a new style PE kit. It was hoped the design and mark up could be agreed by the mid term holiday. The school was trying to achieve best value for parents. It is hoped to be available from August 2010 and there will be a roll over period of one year with the existing kit. Not all of the kit will be compulsory.

IX.The Open Day at both sites had been very successful with applications for S1 up by 50%.

6. CAREERS CONVENTION - Wednesday 10th March 2010

Nearly all the 4th year forms had been returned. A list of required consultants was now available. 110 consultants /80 areas of interest. All committee members to discuss after the meeting areas where they can help.

7. PARENTS PARTICIPATION EVENT

John Kyle asked if anyone had come up with any further thoughts on a suitable function. Ideas were all aimed at Kingarth Street: a talent show, family ceilidh or a primary Burns Night. Marion Leslie asked if the HGSA was to be linked with the Ball being organized by Mike Martin in the summer term. The Rector reported that was in conjunction with the drama department.

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. Forms still available at the school office for anyone interested.

II. The group has donated £3,000 towards the S6 form bistro upgrade.

III. Christine Bingham thanked the Rector for freeing up the old S6 common room for the 1957 Group to use as a shop. The 1957 Group intends to open

more frequently selling used school uniform. Details of opening hours will be released once the room has been reorganized as a shop.

The Rector and Ian Keter thanked the 1957 Group for their donation towards the S6 bistro upgrade.

10. AOCB

Other issues raised were as follows:

- I. Marion Leslie commented on the catering facilities at Auldhouse. These fell below what most parents would like and she wanted to know if a way could be found to improve them. There followed a discussion on how the 1957 Group had been asked by Mr Lang to help with catering and how it could be a good fund raiser if organized well. Hockey parents echoed the facilities for hospitality at the new hockey pitch were also poor – with no seating available for visiting parents. The Rector and Ian Keter confirmed there were limitations on what could be provided from the kitchen at Auldhouse. Fiona McCrae for Beaton Road Hockey and Brian MacBride for Rugby at Auldhouse volunteered to look into how improvements could be made.
- II. Lindsay MacFarlane asked if there were further plans for Auldhouse now the roof repair was complete. The Rector said there were no further plans at present except a possible change of use for the blaze area. This may be used in future as a soccer pitch.
- III. Fiona Godsman asked if anything could be done about the standard of the road entering Auldhouse. Ian Keter said he had three quotes for this work at present.
- IV. Lindsay MacFarlane asked on behalf of a parent if there were any long term plans to improve heating and ventilation in the assembly hall. This parent felt the conditions could be detrimental to exam performance ie excessively cold during the current prelims and excessively warm during external exams in the summer months. The Rector explained the current additional heating had resolved the severe cold conditions in January and they took every precaution in the summer to keep the curtains closed and windows open to maintain good conditions in the summer months.
- V. Karen McDonald requested on behalf of a staff member who is also a parent if there was going to be a collection for a gift for Mrs McKie when she retires. Lindsay MacFarlane said she had also been asked this by a S3 parent. This parent had mentioned that previously when Graham MacAllister retired a similar request had been made, via the HGSA, by parents and the only option was to donate to a staff

collection but this had not been made public. The Rector acknowledged this could be done by a letter from him.

- VI.** It was commented that there were not enough prefects on duty at the recent S3 Parents Evening. The Rector acknowledged this had been difficult due to the exam timetable and confirmed more had been requested for the upcoming S1 evening.

John Kyle thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 22nd February 2009 7.30pm – Founders Room, Beaton Rd