

Present

Mrs Lindesay MacFarlane (Chair) (LM)
Mrs Anita Simmers (AS)
Mrs Susie Rodgers (SR)
Mrs Elaine Lonergan (EL)
Mrs Fiona Godsman (FG)
Mrs Lynda MacBride (LRM)
Mrs Fiona McCrae (FM) (Minutes)
Mrs Sheila Galbraith (SG)
Mrs Audrey Mathers (AM)

Attending

Mrs Christine Haughney (CH)
Mrs Catherine Keddie (CK)
Mr David Dobson (Chairman, HET)
Dr Ken Greig (Rector)
Mr Iain Keter (Bursar)
Mr Brian MacBride (BM)
Mrs Rhona Gann (1957 Group) (CB)

Apologies

Mrs Helen Smith (HS)
Mrs Claire Macaulay (CM)
Mrs Alina Zahoor (AZ)
Mrs Rohma Akram (RA)

1. WELCOME

- a. Lindesay MacFarlane welcomed committee members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

- a. Apologies were noted as above.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23rd May 2011 had been circulated in draft form. Proposed: Mrs Fiona McCrae, seconded: Mrs Fiona Godsman. Approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- a. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
 - i. Details for this year's S3 are not yet confirmed.
 - ii. Booklets confirming commitment will be produced. They will also differentiate more between silver and gold awards.
 - b. The list of school trips need to be updated on the website to give parents more information about upcoming events.
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- c. David Dobson confirmed that finalised minutes are to be circulated to the Board of Governors.

5. RECTOR'S UPDATE

- a. Dr Greig felt that the start of the new term had started on a very positive note, possibly due to the whole school photo, which had given a sense of belonging.
- b. New staff and changes in the pastoral team had given a new energy to the school.
- c. Exam results are comparable with previous years
- d. The charity for this session is Mary's Meals and for next year it will be the Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation. The impetus for this has been a pupil campaign as Lauren was a former pupil who died suddenly from vasculitis.
- e. Work on the drama studio has been delayed and the school is waiting for confirmation of the completion date of 14th November in time for the official opening planned for 10th December
- f. During a 6th year talking points speech last week Nicola Sturgeon stated that tuition fees will not be reintroduced during this Parliament.

6. PRIMARY SCHOOL UPDATE

- a. CH wanted to register her thanks for the Start back ceilidh which was organised by Elaine Lonergan. The evening had been a great success.
- b. Anne Smart has now been appointed as senior teacher – pastoral after the retirement of Miss Graham.
- c. The area behind the after school club has been cleared, tidied and made safe. The first pieces of furniture are now going in to make it an outdoor classroom.
- d. There are now smart boards in each class for daily access by staff. The mobile smart boards are now used in the language room.
- e. Staff now has access to four visualisers for peer evaluation etc.
- f. The Big Writing project is on-going.

7. CAREERS CONVENTION 2012

- a. The next S4 careers convention will be on 7th March 2012.
- b. The feedback sheets from last year's event have now been input into the database and highlighted to give a head start for finding consultants for the next year.
- c. Futurewise programme has now started and the list should be available for the next meeting.
- d. Fiona Godsman will continue as convenor for the convention.

- e. As a result of a former pupil helping at the convention last year links have been formed to offer experiences for prospective Aeronautical students with GE Engineering in Prestwick.
- f. Pupils in S4 get guidance about work experience at the end of the year.

8. FAMILY CEILIDH

- a. The committee registered their thanks and congratulations to Elaine Lonergan and her helpers for the work put into the recent Family Ceilidh.
- b. There were at least 70 families who all found the evening very enjoyable. It was felt that this was a great introduction to the new school year.
- c. As Elaine will no longer be on the committee next year Anita Simmers has agreed to take on the role for next year.
- d. Profit of £125 made

9. 1957 GROUP UPDATE

- a. Group has recently lost their treasurer which has led to a few issues which were now almost concluded.
- b. They have donated £20,000 to the new drama building
- c. The committee has now agreed to finance the new outdoor classroom and one other project which will be either a digital camera for the film club or microscopes for the primary school.
- d. This year's events are a quiz night on 14th September and the Winter Fair on 19th November.
- e. The group is looking for a donor for an iPad 2 as a prize.
- f. 20 bags of lost property have been received by the janitor of which only 23 items were labelled. Parents are reminded to fully label items of school uniform as a lot of effort is put into returning lost property. Only items adequately labelled can be returned.
- g. A truck load of old PE kit has now been sent to Eastern Europe with the Blytheswood Trust and five bags of unwearable clothes has been sent for recycling.

10. AGM

- a. The date for this year's AGM is 11th October 2011
- b. The proposal is that it will be held at Kingarth Street
- c. All the vacancies for the next year have now been highlighted and will be advertised prior to the AGM.
- d. Last year's planned amendment to the HGSA Constitution will be reintroduced. The reduction of the number of members required to be quorate will be reduced from 50 to 30. This is necessary due to the fluctuating numbers attending the AGM over recent years.

- e. Mrs Haughney agreed to host a Primary Curriculum Evening immediately after the AGM to attract more parents.

11. AOCB

- a. A question has been raised on whether the gates to the main school car park can be opened on a Saturday morning to create extra parking when hockey matches are on.
- b. Dr Greig was asked to clarify the differences between the different exams senior pupils sit. He also explained that new national levels which simplify the system will be introduced by 2014. These will affect the current S2 year group.
- c. A parent raised the issue of breaches of uniform rules by senior pupils. Dr Greig reported staff work well together to ensure conformity and they will continue to give it their full attention.
- d. A question was also raised about school holidays but the rector has already replied direct to the parent concerned.
- e. The same parent raised a question about the possible introduction of Mandarin. The head explained that the school are constantly re-evaluating courses but there are no plans for its introduction at present. The modern languages department are presently very successful, a comment supported by CH who said that modern languages were very successful at the primary.
- f. Questions have been raised by senior pupils' parents about sports kit. They feel that the tour hoodies, waterproofs etc. which are already in school colours should still be allowed during training sessions. Dr Greig agreed to discuss the issue with the sports department.
- g. Parents have asked about the crossover into the big playground at the Primary school. CH explained that pupils were happy. She also explained that the school keeps a book for all staff to read prior to going into the playground so any concerns can be highlighted. An issue over a behaviour incident earlier in the week had now been resolved.
- h. A question was raised about the lack of crossing controls on Kingarth Street. Mr Dobson explained that this was a continuing concern to the Board of Governors and they were working with the Council to find a solution. A parent suggested contacting the council to support these activities and perhaps contacting the Councillor, David Meikle, to canvas support.
- i. A parent had asked whether the next ski holiday would be in Europe. No information was presently available.

12. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday 11th October 2011 (AGM)
- Monday 7th November 2011
- Monday 27th February 2012
- Monday 21st May 2012

Lindesay McFarlane thanked those in attendance and brought the meeting to a close at 9.30pm.