

Minutes of the Meeting of Kirkwall Grammar School Parent Council
Held on Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 7.30pm
Computing Room 2, KGS

Present:

Ness Garrett (Chair), Aly Bruce, Chris Matthews, Nikki Bichan, Donna Heddle, Karen Stevenson, Irene Drever, Melanie MacLennan, Sarah Harcus, Sara Croy, Morag Tweedie, Sue Clewett

In attendance:

Iain Ballantine (Head Teacher), Cllr. J. Annal (Kirkwall East OIC Councillor and Chair Education & Recreational Services Committee, OIC), Marilyn Richards (Department of Education & Recreational Services, OIC), Owen Auskerry (Pupils' Council Representative).

Apologies:

David Murdoch, Viv Erdman, Iain Maclean, Hazel Perry, Aly MacPhail, Anne Foubister

1.	Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2009	Action
	These were approved and the Chair authorised to sign them subject to the following amendments:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikki Bichan was present. • Steven Heddle was present in his role of Councillor. 	
2.	SoA Report	
	Sue Clewett attended a Schools of Ambition Conference in March on behalf of the Parent Council and gave a report on her experience (see Appendix 1). IB reported that KGS already does some of the SoA initiatives, eg ACE Theme Week, KGS teachers going into Primaries to teach languages. He is also trying to get local businesses involved with schools, there have already been two business events but he would like to reach more local businesses. KGS have also run Leadership courses which have been very successful and helped six Orkney schools to work more closely together. SoA and CfE have helped pave the way for the changes to the curriculum framework and full implementation will take place in August 2010.	
3.	Matters arising	
3.1	Ethos Survey - Marilyn Richards reported that the OIC Ethos Questionnaire is to be re-designed and put out in September 09. It will now include questions that parents' want, as well as what the Authority wants. The Parent Council decided to hold off sending out our survey as it would be pointless to send out a similar one.	
3.2	Disclosure Scotland - VG wrote to Fiona Hyslop regarding Disclosure Checks and whether or not we would receive extra funding for this. She received a reply but no mention was made of extra funding.	
3.3	Parent Council Website - MM, CC and SH to contact S Heddle about forming the website.	
3.4	Homework - JA will attend a Principal Teacher's Meeting.	
4.	Autumn Fayre	
	It has been decided that an Autumn Fayre be held at KGS on 26 September 2009 from 11am - 3pm. Various ideas were discussed and agreed on (see Appendix 2). SC has secured some raffle prizes already and it was agreed that she should order 5000 tickets and these will sell for £1 each. She has booked a day at Tesco to sell raffle tickets and Parent Council members will take shifts (hourly) to sell tickets on that day. It was also decided to make the top prize £400. JA reminded us that we need to keep good financial records. It was decided to ask Stephen Hagan to open the fayre and to ask Andy Cant or Dave Gray to do the raffle.	All
5.	School Transport	
	MT stated that a number of parents have raised concern about the school buses not collecting pupils on time and about school closures in general. IB explained the current procedures at KGS but it seemed that the problems were with the bus company and they do not seem to be readily available when problems arise. SH raised concerns with one bus in particular. No one was sure if the Education Department were aware of these problems. IB stated that the OIC Transport Policy was currently being updated and JA reported that the transport contract would be coming up for tender shortly and the Parent Council should write to OIC with the concerns. She will also talk to other Parent Councils to see if they have concerns too. Perhaps a meeting could be set up with representatives	Ness

	from the transport providers and parents to air these concerns. Members are to email VG with concerns they have received/experienced and she'll compose a letter and send to JA, who will then pass it onto the relevant persons and hopefully the meeting can be set up from there.	
6.	Head Teacher's Report	
	<p>Mr Ballantine stated that Term 4 was a very busy term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The School Improvement Plan is to be finalised, with a draft version being issued at the next Parent Council meeting. - The budgets for 2009/2010 are currently being decided and a draft these will be issued at the next Parent Council meeting also. - Department Development plans are to be completed by June. - The SQA exams are starting shortly, S4 Study Leave begins on 5 May and S5/6 on 14 May. - ACE Theme week takes place in the first week of June and there is to be an additional In-service Day on Monday 8 June, therefore the new term begins on Tuesday 9 June. There will also be an additional In-service day on 18 September. - The National Theatre of Scotland is coming to KGS in order to work with all of our S3 to create a production and presentation of art work for the St Magnus Festival. - There is to be a visit from the German Consul General in the very near future. - We have already had a visit from Stephen Heppell last month when he had spoken to parents, staff and pupils about some ideas for the space in the new school. - Steve Cole, a children's author, will be visiting S1 & S2 classes. - Mrs Ballantine and her S3 class won a National Award for their project work. - Jamie Andrew (a mountaineer who has had to have his hands and feet amputated) is coming to talk to the S5 and S6 on their Induction Days. - Katharyn MacKenzie is going to be studying in Voss next year. 	
7.	Annual Meeting of Parent Forum	
	<p>The date was set for Tuesday 9 June at 7pm. Letters are to be issued to all parents to tell them about the meeting and also to request agenda items. To further publicise the meeting IB agreed to text all parents and put a notice on the school website. Also an advert is to be placed in the Orcadian, Orkney Today and Radio Orkney.</p> <p>Doris Hutchison has very kindly agreed to do the accounts for the Parent Council.</p> <p>IB will give Head Teacher's Report, AB will present the accounts, Alan Moar of the New Build Task Group will be asked to give a short update, Marilyn Richards will speak about CfE, co-opted members need to be re-appointed and coffee/tea will be served (provided by KGS).</p>	
8.	New Build Update	
	Six companies have submitted answers to the questionnaires, these are then assessed using a scoring system (technical appraisal & financial appraisal) with three preferred bidders chosen by the end of June.	
9.	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 26 May at 7.30pm.	