



# Girvan Academy Parent Council



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## GAPC MINUTES (16 Jan 23)

1. The GAPC hybrid meeting was held at Girvan Academy and online via Zoom, at 6.30pm on Monday, 16 January 2023.

### 2. Attendance:

Sharon Trotter (Chair)

Leslie Forbes (Vice Chair)

Elaine Denham (Treasurer)

Mark Anderson (Head Teacher)

Alex Scott (Depute Head Teacher)

Cllr. Alec Clark

Jim Griffin

Sheona Johnson

Claire Mills

Georgette Birch

Molly Beckett (Pupil Council)

### 3. Apologies:

Michelle Oellerman (Secretary)

Cllr. Gavin Scott

Gabbi Duval

PC Dan Johnstone

Kasia Kowalska

Claire McCormick

Pamela Waugh

Victoria Shaw

Giles Skiba

Paul Osbourne

4. Minutes of previous meeting were made available online, proposed by CM and seconded by ED. It was noted Claire Mills, Georgette Birch and Jim Griffin were missed as attendees from the minutes.

5. Fundraising / Grants -

- a. Spring Fayre (25 Mar 23). The Spring Fayre will be held on 25 Mar. Stalls will cost £10. ED asked if anyone knew of any potential stallholders who could be invited to the event. The pupils and staff were also asked if they would be interested in running a stall(s). ST suggested a Kiltwalk theme to be able the funds raised to be used towards the Glasgow Kiltwalk. ED asked for poster to be designed to publicise the event - if this was something the pupils would be interested in creating.
- b. Glasgow Kilt Walk. ST will be signing up to do the Kiltwalk in Glasgow on 30th April. Other staff, pupils, parents / carers were invited to take part. The registration fee is £20 and ST suggested getting a grant/contribution towards the costs. There are three routes participants could sign up to - The Mighty Stride (22miles), The Big Stroll (14miles) and The Wee Wander (3miles). MA, CM, SJ and senior pupils volunteered to take part. Minibuses would need to be booked early to ensure availability. There were several volunteer drivers who were MIDAS qualified - ST, SJ and other staff members.
- c. Lowland Gathering. ST asked for suggestions for a stall for this year's Lowland Gathering. It could be the same as last year (bikes /bike maintenance, bookstall, cakes, tombola) which proved successful, or otherwise. This would be revisited at the next meeting.

- d. AS suggested the Coffee Morning could be held on the same day as the Lowland Gathering.
  - e. Banner and Gazebo. ST asked if a banner and gazebo could be purchased in time for the Lowland Gathering. A previous grant was awarded to purchase a gazebo in 2019 at the Lowland Gathering (David Girvan), however, it wasn't clear as to whether the funds were received. AC offered to speak to David Girvan to find out whether the funds were transferred to the Parent Council, and if so when.
  - f. Grants - MA asked about the grants available to use. ED requested receipts so she could issue cheques accordingly, explaining there were also unrestricted funds available. Funding was also in place for sporting events, such as the rugby strips. MA discussed using grants for future events the school are interested in running incl. inflatables, assault course, demolition ball, bungee run, tough mudders and any other 'whole school' activities. It was agreed this would be a good use of funding to the benefit of all pupils. ED confirmed the deadline for the Carrick Futures grant is 6 February, but the decision on whether the application is successful wouldn't be until the end of April.
6. Headteacher Report. MA provided an overview of the Head Teacher Report discussing the ongoing refurbishments including the new cyber suite following Mr Gareth Rae's success in national cyber awards, monitoring CO2 levels in classrooms and ventilation.
7. Furthermore, MA discussed Parent Evening events and invited feedback on how to increase parental / carer involvement. LF suggested parent council members could support with child care for younger siblings attending. The next parent evening is on 7th February for S3 and any volunteers would be welcomed.
8. AS gave an overview of the recent school initiatives - 'Cost of the School Day', Christmas parcels (South Ayrshire Toy Bank), Christmas Food Hampers, the Breakfast Club, Hygiene Packs, Preparation Stations (free stationery) and free uniforms. All initiatives to date have been successful, except for the uptake in school uniforms which has been low. AS explained one of the issues has been the space available in school to display uniforms. The Parent Council were invited to make suggestions how this could be improved.

Ideas put forward included rebranding it as a 'Thrift Shop' or somewhere individuals can exchange / recycle clothes. The clothes exchanged could be used for the RagBag promoting the school's environmental credentials and bring in additional income for the school.

9. MA confirmed ParentPay was coming into effect replacing the Pay system. Currently the minimum amount that can be credited onto the account is £5. This is going to be reviewed in order to reduce the £5 threshold enabling parents to better manage spending. AS highlighted some families only deal with cash and wouldn't credit ParentPay putting pupils at considerable disadvantage. ED suggested setting up a 'dummy' ParentPay account whereby pupils would be able to use cash to purchase a school lunch.
10. MA explained how school reports could be 'streamlined' and provide consistency in format. The Parent Council were invited to comment and provide feedback during which the merits of a full report, tracking and parent evenings were discussed. MA stated the next reports (S2) would be more concise and include the 'next steps' for your child.
11. A copy of the HT Report is attached.
12. Treasurer Report. ED provided the Treasurer's report. The Parent Council presented a cheque for £2,000 to the school for the 'Cost of Living' Fund from ASDA. In November the Parent Council received £11,730 from Foundation Scotland. The total balance is £13,829.26. A further cheque for £520 will be issued to the school to cover the cost of the coach for the Charlie & the Chocolate Factory trip.
13. There is £2,100 unrestricted funds available. SJ requested £1,000 for rugby strips for the girls and equipment (£50 per uniform). This was agreed.
14. JW will be sending out a letter to business contacts for donations to the school. Any donations would also be unrestricted funds.
15. ED iterated the Rag Bag bins have yet to be delivered as there is a current shortage. There is a collection planned for the third week of February. Bags of clothing would be accepted even if the bins are not delivered in time.

16. AOB

- a. Safety Issues. AC asked about the current situation on Coalpots Road traffic. The consensus was the traffic lights put in place hasn't solved the problem, specifically speeding and the location of the lights having limited accessibility to residential areas. AC offered to follow up with Ayrshire Roads Alliance Roads.
- b. MA proposed the Clerk Fees for £600 be transferred across to the school. The vote was carried.

17. Correspondence Minutes of the PC Chair Meeting on 23 Nov 22, and copies of the the presentations were attached. The next meeting is 7 March.

18. Close. The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next GAPC meeting has been moved to 6 Mar.