



Perth Grammar School Parent Council

Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday 4th February 2025, 6.30pm.

Attending: Roy McIntosh, Fiona Robertson, Maddison Moore, David Sinclair, Martin Reid, Louise Awburn, Cllr Andrew Parrott, Cllr Chris Ahern, Jenny Robertson, Alexandra McQueen

Apologies: Sam Lewis, Anna Brown (PLT)

1.	Welcome and apologies	RM
2.	Pupil Leadership Team	MM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pupil Leadership Team reflected on the past term successes and ongoing projects: • Winter Ceilidh was a good success. It was a great chance for everyone to be involved. S5 helped organize budgets, prices and a QR code was sent through Teams for planning. • The Tuck Shop for the disco raised £300 and the money raised was given to Mission Christmas. The senior team and pupil leadership were all able to help with the disco which was great. • Christmas concert and Parent evening went very well with volunteers and help from the pupil leadership team guiding parents. • Miss Dickinson help with the Shoe Box donation and found that there were more donations this year thanks to a plan put in place so each year knew what would be useful to bring. • This term has been very busy already with the Pre-lims occupying most of our team but we will be starting back on our weekly lunch meetings. • We are looking to organize an Activity Day on 29th June which will be set out of school for the seniors. Ideas so far are Alton Towers, football match, Safari, meals out. There are growing concerns about affordability so we are also also looking into outdoor activities and BBQ's possibilities so everyone feels included. • S6 are planning prom, year book and hoodies. They are also looking into what could help the years below going forward. • The cast has been chosen for the School Show so it is very exciting. • Safe driving – many pupils have now past their driving test so a refresher on how to be safe on the roads 	

	<p>would be useful. Maybe contacting PKC for help with links and information.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Headteacher Report</p>	<p>FR</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Term 3 / Happy New Year. • 10 Strive Award winners. • Held assemblies re: 2025 and more recently in House Teams. • Slight disappointment at the moment in relation to number of young people being permitted to attend school in attire not reflective of school uniform. Ultimately our basic dress code is to help support and enhance security as well as prepare for future professions / skills for life. National press on significant matters / incidents in schools even more of a reason for families to support us with this reasonable expectation. • Now a means to provide compliments: Leave a compliment - Compliment details - Perth & Kinross Council • Skills Development Scotland have been holding interviews for S2 pupils. • HT focus groups S3 moving onto a Senior Phase Attainment theme. • SLT engaged in self-evaluation activities including lesson visits, Science Faculty Review and Vision / Aims refresh. • Staffing Updates: looking ahead there will be likely challenges staffing Computing and Business in particular. • Assessment window has finished. Record level of young people requiring Alternative Assessment Arrangements. • Invigilators commented on how well our young people responded to this period. 	

4.	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny stated there is £1953.61 left in the bank account and the Perth Decides Fund money has now been used in full. • The Christmas Raffle raised £77 although it seems that the money raised keeps declining due to parents not having any cash on the night. We may need to look into creating a QR Code or applying for a portable card machine. 	JR
5.	Parent Council Webpage Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have now been able to create additional content for the Parent Council webpage on PGS website but we may want to add a link for the uniforms. • Roy thanks Jenny and Alex for their help with the web page. 	RM
6.	Visions and Aims Refresh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have an outstanding community vision although we could refresh the name but overall our strong values are here to stay. Sam Lewis and Scott Jewell are working hard towards asking questions and put it into context. This is a chance for us to review our goals. So far only 3 responses have been logged. 	FR
7.	Mobile Phone Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lots happening nationally and locally at the moment regarding mobile phone guidance and there is a document available online regarding mobile phones in schools which every school is operating from. Some elements rest with Head Teachers and is cleverly worded. • Martin has been involved with the creation of a document for PKC which is not out yet but will be shared once it is finalized. • Young people live and breathe with mobile phones but it is becoming a detriment to their learning and we need to educate young people regarding this issue. We need to ensure we have a policy that works for us at PGS and consider the wellbeing of young people as well. • Martin came up with a statement game which the parent council did in groups. 11 statements were brought to the table and had to be placed into most and least important categories. Martin stated that this policy needed to factor in those statements. • PGS may be looking into getting a phone box or locker. 	FR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 documentaries were brought to everyone’s attention: BBC Iplayer – The making of Bill Gates and Swiped – The school that banned phones. Martin would appreciate if parents could watch these documentaries and is looking to organize a design consultation after and ask questions so parents are involved and information is shared but also have real data the school can work from. This could potentially become part of PGS CRPL program. Cllr Chris Ahern added that there is a lot of good use with mobile phones but there are also some dangers including social media and we all need to be aware of them. • PGS red, amber and green phone posters have been there for the past 7 years and is getting a little outdated. Cllr Andrew Parrot mentioned that he does not have a mobile phone and does not feel like he is missing out on anything. We need to encourage sensible use and for people to understand the damage they can do as people become less aware of their environment. Although mobile phones have an instant gratification for society, we have to be able to do more as it is becoming a very unhealthy digitalized process which cannot be un-invented. 	
<p>8. Pathways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are changing some parts of our curriculum. • S1 & S2 have a 3 year program which builds flexibility to the curriculum and structure. It is also an opportunity for staff to upscale and develop their skills. • S3 – After receiving 132 pupils feedback, we have listened as they wanted to reduce the number of subjects which we have done. Other choices and qualifications are now available such as PE. • S5 and S6 – We are now moving from 6 subjects for each year to now 5 although they will now get extra periods which will focus on wider achievements and leadership. MVP has now a place in the curriculum. • We are looking into more assertive courses getting 1 to 1 guidance and House Teams are currently looking into current reporting to pupils and parents. • Jenny mentioned the Science evening for parents which she attended and found very informative. It may be useful to do these evenings on other subjects too. Martin said they were looking into this further as feedback was phenomenal. 	<p>MR</p>
<p>9. Cost of School Day Guidance / Activities Days</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost has not been approved yet but we need to ensure that we do not restrict pupils from attending due to 	<p>FR</p>

	<p>money issues. We also need to engage interests and have decent opportunities for everyone.</p>	
10.	<p>Staff Health and Wellbeing / Recognition suggestion: Bacon Rolls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to ensure that staff feel valued and PGS did cost bacon rolls for 80-100 staff on Inservice day which comes to around £225. There was a discussion around what the Parent Council could do to help and will be discussing this further in a separate meeting as they felt it was a good opportunity for parents to thank all the staff for their hard work through the year. • Last Friday was Fun Day – each faculty received a bag of sweets and clues were given to find them which was indeed fun. 	FR
11.	<p>Parent Council Gmail/Email account and some key rules/processes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roy mentioned the possibility for the Parent Council to have their own email address account so parents can get in touch directly. Jenny and Alexandra felt there maybe was not a need for it as this is something that would need to be managed and we would need more parents to take on roles within the Parent Council. • Fiona added that PC should maybe look into what other schools are doing as right now emails go straight to the school which have to be filtered by them. • Roy will look further into this and contact other Parent Council Chairs. 	RM
12.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra discussed the issue with school bus transport which was brought to her attention by a parent through social media but could do not attend the meeting. There are growing concerns about the school buses being late especially in the winter time, leaving the children outside standing in the cold and being late for school as well as having to reset their exams. Parents are asking whether 	ALL

	<p>it is possible to look into another transport provider as Stagecoach seems it be very unreliable. Fiona confirmed that parents concerns have been raised with Transport and Stagecoach but parents should complain directly to Stagecoach through their website or PKC website. Cllr Parrott and Ahern have both agreed that the more complaints are brought to their attention, the more will be done about it. Cllr Parrott confirmed that unfortunately there are no other transport options and said PKC are aware of this issue and they are doing everything they can to rectify it. PKC are maybe looking into taking school transport inhouse so they can control it better.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closure due to adverse weather – Alexandra mentioned that online learning with 2 kids and her workload was very stressful and although she understood that staff were available and getting paid for their time it may be useful for parents to know exactly what the teacher's expectations are during school closures. Fiona mentioned that this was the first time it happened since Covid19 and that the school was doing their best and ensure kids welfare. Fiona was proud as to how the school reacted last Friday and how communications went out very quickly. Martin proposed to review this matter and share teacher's expectations to parents in a clearer manner. Cllr Parrott said this was a difficult subject as we will be getting more of these weather events and although PKC have a year-round policy dealing with these events they could perhaps look more at how other councils approach this. David mentioned that teachers want work to be purposeful but teachers may try to overcompensate. It was all very last minute. 	
13.	<p>Date of next meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025 @ 6:30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As parents have mentioned that Tuesdays may be difficult for them to attend the meeting, it was decided that the next meeting will be held on a Wednesday to try and get more parents to attend. 	ALL