

Hyndland Secondary School Parent Council
Meeting Thursday 5 June 2025, classroom, 6.30pm

Present: Alex McTier (chair, AM), Graham McFarlane (vice-chair, GM), Alastair Dalton-Hopwood (joint secretary, ADH), Rhona Ferguson (treasurer, RF).

John Caughie, Bev Sumpter (BS), Alison Guthrie (AG), Allison Emery, Frances Poet (FP), Edmondo Minizci

School staff: Louise Edgerton (head teacher, LE), Gavin Tulloch (English teacher, GT)

Apologies: Kirsty Greaves (joint secretary)

Minutes of last meeting on 7 May 2025 proposed by AM and seconded by GM

Rangers Foundation

S5 pupil Robbie spoke about his experience of spending one day a week with the Foundation this year along with ten others from the school, which he said had helped boost his confidence, make choices for his future and reduce stress.

Activities included fire station and Royal Navy visits, National 5 First Aid and football tournaments

Action points from last meeting:

Clarence Drive Road Safety

GM to arrange for Neil from Eco Trust to come to the next meeting when date arranged.

GM said contacting councillors had been difficult but he was meeting Councillor Adam at the end of school on 20 June to witness pupils leaving and show him degraded speed limit signs.

Dance Studio Cleaning

LE has raised issue with facilities firm Amey, which confirmed it was being checked and she would be kept posted.

School Grounds/Buildings

LE said various work was ongoing behind the scenes and the Hyndland Hut was being taken away.

Lauderdale Gardens Road Closure

LE said city council had agreed to closure of road for School Fayre on 7 June at no charge, although it was likely to be held inside because of the weather.

LE is still pursuing permanent closure of the road as part of changes to school grounds.

Litter Pick - 31 May

LE said 3-4 families took part + some staff. Date to be arranged for next one in June.

Recycling

LE had requested Amey remove redundant bins and empty all the others properly over the summer holidays so the recycling and waste bins could be used properly from next term.

Cameras for Art Department

LE said funding had been provided for 15 cameras but they could do with more.

GM suggested contacting camera hire shops for donations or discounted stock, and would provide a list to LE.

ADH said Gillian Grant has had no response to an appeal for cameras on social media.

AGM

Treasurer's Report

RF said the account balance for year ending 4 April 2025 was £1,252.06 (£654.96 in 2023-24), including nearly £231 from easyfundraising (£802 last year).

It was agreed to promote easyfundraising among parents/carers, including in info sent to those joining the school.

A fundraising event next year, possibly for the playground upgrade (suggested by FP), was discussed following the Airlie Theatre sound system Quiz Night in 2023-24.

Chair's Report

AT said it had been a "really momentous" year for the school, with the "excellent" findings of the school inspection report a "huge achievement", of which everyone should be "immensely proud".

Parent Council attendance peaked at around 20 at the March meeting, with moves to publicise it to the new intake.

AT thanked Kirsty Greaves for serving as joint secretary.

AT said: "It has been a momentous year for the school. The 'excellent' findings from the Inspectorate are a huge achievement and we must all be immensely proud of the hard work of the school and its pupils, staff and partners. The inspection findings have given a terrific confidence boost to the whole school community. From a Parent Council perspective, it was great to see that many Parent Council members were able to contribute to the inspection process and, more widely, that 105 parents or carers completed the online parent/carer survey.

"The Parent Council has continued to meet and there has been good parent and carer attendance across all scheduled meetings, peaking at around 20 parents at the March meeting. In particular, it has been really good to see parents of S1 pupils attending and contributing, and hopefully parents of the new S1 intake can be attracted through promoting the Parent Council at the P7/S1 information evening and the 'Meet the Hyndland Community' event at the start of the school year.

"Over the course of the year, we have looked to have a thematic focus to the meetings – including the school's mobile phone policy, the teenage brain, and online safety – all of which were well received. Other key topics of discussion have been maximising and upgrading the school estate, road traffic calming on Clarence Drive, and healthy food and drink options within the Fuel Zone – and these topics will continue into 2025/26. There has also been the starting up of an Additional Support Needs Parent Support Group and hopefully this continues and grows. Fundraising for the school has not been a focus of activity in 2024/25 (due to the Airlie Theatre sound system fundraising in 2023/24). The Parent Council are however keen to support a future fundraising effort where a need or opportunity is identified.

"To bring the 2024/25 year to a close, I want to thank Kirsty Greaves for her time and contribution to the Parent Council as she steps down from joint secretary. I also want to thank everyone who has given their time to Parent Council over the year and I look forward to us all meeting again next year."

Office Bearers for 2025-26

Chair: Alex McTier was proposed by GM, seconded by ADH

Vice-chair: Graham McFarlane was proposed by AG, seconded by RF

Treasurer: Rhona Ferguson was proposed by AG, seconded by AM

Joint secretaries: Alastair Dalton-Hopwood and Graham McFarlane were proposed by AM, seconded by AG

Protecting Vulnerable Group (PVG) scheme

AM suggested Parent Council office bearers should have PVG checks as new guidance advised this where PC members "exercised power or influence over children", such as where their roles "involved making decisions of an operational or strategic nature that could have an impact on a number of children". AM to circulate details.

Head Teacher's report (extracts)

- Some 22 stalls arranged for School Fayre on 7 June
- Three probationary teachers joining school in August (English, Chemistry, Physics) and there was "much more staffing stability than we've ever had".
- Tracking of pupil progress to include recognising wider achievement, such as music, sport, dance, school shows and outside school activities/groups.
- S3 to pilot sitting exams on iPads following some S3s trialling it this year.
- LE suggested discussion at future Parent Council meeting of different curriculum pathways for pupils.
- LE suggested the Parent Council look at the equalities training to staff such as re boys and Andrew Tate to raise parental awareness. GT said there was concern about misogyny among both girls and boys.
- More family learning is planned next year following success of poetry events.

Other Business

- S2 trip to Barclays Bank: GM expressed ethical concerns because of Barclays' involvement in Israel and investment in arms and fossil fuels. He said the bank was trying to "reframe its image rather changing what it did". BS said it offered life skills training not offered by other banks.

LE to get more information

Next meeting (and 2025-26 meetings calendar): To be arranged.

AM to liaise with LE.