

Sgoil Lionacleit Parent Council AGM 26/04/11: Chairperson's report

This report is prepared for the second Annual General Meeting of the Sgoil Lionacleit Parent Council, held on 26/04/11.

There have been some changes to the membership and attendance at the Parent Council in the last year, with a number of members retiring, and some new faces joining. In particular I would like to thank Norma MacIntyre for taking over the post of Secretary, and Margaret Macdonald for looking after the Treasurer's position. We are also indebted to Ann Evans for her administrative and minute-taking skills. Lastly, following John Harrison's retiral as Head Teacher we are pleased to have Miller Macdonald contributing to the Parent Council in this role. (Members will recall that the Parent Council was actually started up during a previous period when Mr Macdonald was acting Head.)

The last year has been a period of significant change for the school, some of which has caused undoubted concern to some parents, which it has been our duty as a parent council to communicate to the school and to the authority. The high turnover of staff last summer was remarked on particularly. We are reassured by the education authority that the pupils' interests are given the highest priority as it is faced with difficult decisions in an adverse economic climate. We welcome the input of fresh ideas and approaches that new staff bring with them, and we thank all staff, old and new, for their continuing good work with our young people in what have been trying circumstances.

In our own work as Parent Council we have continued to build on our still recent beginnings. We have regular meetings at which the Head Teacher presents a report on school news. These also offer an opportunity for members to raise and debate their own issues of concern. We are pleased when local councillors are also able to attend. All meetings are minuted, and the minutes are placed on the school website.

A new development this year has been the establishment of a sub-committee which has taken a special interest in helping the school ameliorate its built environment. Following representations from this group, fruitful meetings have been held with council representatives, particularly in relation to public facilities. The Parent Council is pleased that its concerns have been noted and suggestions received in a positive spirit.

The Parent Council is also pleased to have engaged with the Pupil Council, particularly in relation to this year's school-leavers. We were glad to be able to offer some financial support to help the leavers mark this important step in their lives.

Lastly, let me reiterate my message from last year, if there are suggestions for other activities in which the Parent Council could usefully engage, let's hear them! There is certainly room on the council for new ideas - and new members.

Gordon Wells
Chair, Sgoil Lionacleit Parent Council
26/04/11