

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR
Sgoil Lionacleit

Minute/Note of Meeting

TITLE : Parent Council

DATE : 24/04/2012

TIME : 6.00 – 7.30 pm

DISTRIBUTION : Parent Forum

E-mail copy to: school_management_lionacleit and sgoillionacleit

Present: Miller MacDonald (HT) , Norma MacIntyre (NMI), Kate Dawson (SKD), Marybell MacRury (MMR), Mary Walker (MW),
Minutes: SKD

Item	Summary	Action	Who? When?
1 Apologies	Theona Morrison, Gordon Wells, Martin Taylor, David Blaney, Dorothy MacVicar, Ann Evans, Flora Steele, Margaret MacDonald		
2 Minutes of Last Meeting	<p>Corrections:</p> <p>2:No <i>New</i> suggestions (previously discussed: school flag replacement, former pupils visiting)</p> <p>4: Evaluation form was for, not from, the parent council, and was a paper copy</p> <p>4: Neil MacDonald organises formal meetings when all parent councils in the region meet together, but not individual parent council meetings.</p> <p>5: The curriculum changes under curriculum for excellence were not just for maths</p> <p>6: The budget for building works was not withdrawn, although there were fears that it might be.</p> <p>6: NMI was to write and send a letter from the parent council to Ian Smith re building works, rather than SKD</p> <p>9: SKD stated that parents were not aware of (rather than not understanding) the restrictions to six parents evenings per year.</p> <p>9: Minute on ‘communication’ unclear, possibly due to wide-ranging discussion.</p> <p>9: Agreed that parent council notice board to be reviewed, but not who by</p> <p>9: SKD to liaise with HT re survey of parents concerning parents evenings</p>		
3 Matters Arising	<p>3.1 Suggestions for the 25th anniversary: Parent council will fund a new school flag. We also support a ‘where are they now’ record to be kept within the school over the year for previous alumni of the school, to be arranged by the school.</p> <p>3.2 Library: The library is now open for students on Mondays, thanks to Mrs Pamela Bramwell Taylor</p> <p>3.3 Fundraising for Morocco: We have not yet been approached for a raffle prize.</p> <p>4.1 SKD had written to Donald MacLeod about the Parent Council meeting in Stornoway, but had not received a reply. The letter asked for future meetings to have a video-link and an agenda, as well as sufficient notice.</p> <p>4.2 The responses for the self-evaluation document were compiled and returned</p> <p>8.1 No response from S6 after we did not agree to fund a jaunt to Glasgow. We discussed being clearer about what we would and would not fund in 2012-2013 (e.g. leavers’ hoodies, tea mugs, photographs, buffet at local hotel, but not unaccompanied trips to the mainland.)</p>	<p>Costing and sourcing flag</p> <p>Organise ‘where are they now’ record</p> <p>Liaise with next year’s S6 in October term.</p>	<p>NMI</p> <p>HT</p> <p>2012-2013 committee</p>

4	Correspondence	4.1 The education department business plan 2012-2013 is available for anyone who wishes to see it.		
5	H.T Report	<p>5.1 Mr C Fraser has been appointed as Principal Teacher for Art and Technical. The HT wished to thank Mrs Reid for her work.</p> <p>5.2 Another HiFires course is underway, with ten pupils from third year taking part.</p> <p>5.3 A successful IT safety awareness day has been held for S1&S2</p> <p>5.4 Enterprising young people event organised for S5 and S6 by Theona Morrison.</p> <p>5.5 Meeting with Kelly Milford (SQA) took place for parents with pupils in S1&S2, concerning the new curriculum for excellence. This was a well-attended meeting.</p> <p>5.6 The school held a curriculum choices evening for parents with pupils in S2, S4 and S5</p> <p>5.7 The school participated in a successful science festival, with several interesting events organised during the week. Mr Boom held some interesting mathematics workshops for S1 pupils.</p> <p>5.8 The school is looking at whether we should become cashless: pupils and families hold an account at the school that is operated by a pass card, which could cover stationary, uniforms, meals and trips. PC members at the meeting were generally enthusiastic. If we started with school meals alone, then this would overcome problems like lost or forgotten dinner money, arranging meals for visitors to the school, bullying, dinner money being spent on sweets or other items outwith school etcetera. www.parentpay.com for more details.</p> <p>5.9 The new system of phone calls for absences is going well so far, and is much more effective than notes, which get lost or handed in late.</p> <p>5.10 Domestic abuse workshop, lead by Baldy Bane theatre company for S5 and S6 http://www.baldybanetheatre.co.uk/education was successful with lots of input from pupils</p> <p>5.11 CAB gave a talk on financial planning and the use of 'plastic' to S4</p> <p>5.12 Sabhal Mor Ostaig came to the school to talk about courses at the College and careers in Gaelic.</p> <p>5.13 The SQA exams timetable starts 25th April, and the new school timetable starts on the 4th June. S6 last day at school is 3rd May.</p>		
6	Treasurers report	The treasurer was not present (apologies received, unable to attend due to change of date of meeting).		
7	Report from the Buildings Sub – Committee	<p>7.1 NMI had written to Ian Gordon Smith from the Resources Dept at Education re our concerns about what is happening with the proposed building work, with rumours of a decreased scope. No reply received to date.</p> <p>7.2 HT had also written to enquire about a start date. Since then there has been lots of activity, with a visit from the chief executive, which also included a visit to the LEC. A consequence is that the work now needs to include access to the LEC, with an increase in the cost and budget. The works will include swipe card access to the</p>		

		<p>school, and improved ventilation to a number of areas. The work will start over the summer holidays.</p> <p>7.3 The technical services budget is going to be reduced by a third in the year ahead.</p> <p>7.4 There are plans afoot to have a meeting of the buildings sub-committee (HT, LEC, and parent council members) within the next six weeks.</p> <p>7.5 The toilets are out of soap. We discussed having a regular review of the toilets, with someone checking them just before each meeting to ensure that they are clean and well stocked. Next committee will need to consider whether they wish to do this.</p> <p>7.6 Rolled over to next year: Developing the courtyard, possibly with parent council applying for funds for this from Awards for All, pupil input with ideas and designs.</p>	<p>meeting</p> <p>Decision about how to go about this, which teachers to involve etc.</p>	<p>subcommittee</p> <p>2012-2013 committee</p> <p>2012-2013 committee</p>
8	Communication	<p>8.1 Parent Council Notice board: Informal consultation with parents on the notice board has taken place via face-book and discussion. Agreed that the notice board should display a list of Parent Council Members, contact details including school website and Facebook page, agenda for the next meeting, details of how to access minutes, list of meeting dates for the year ahead, Parent Council aims and invitation to attend. Next year's committee to nominate one person to maintain the notice board.</p> <p>8.2 Facebook: The Facebook page is now up and running, and has been fairly active for those parents who have chosen to use it. Activity will depend on Parent Council members adding questions and starting debates on the page. It has a closed membership, and inappropriate posts can be removed. So far this has not been a problem.</p> <p>8.3 Parents evening survey: SKD and HT have had some correspondence concerning this, and plan to meet this week to discuss the way forward. A draft of format of questionnaire was available for attendees to see, no further comments were added.</p> <p>8.4 Website: The new school website is to be commended, the webmasters are Jude Hunter and Heather MacDonald. There is a page for the Parent Council, new material can be sent to Jude and Heather for updating the page, e.g. Facebook link, minutes</p> <p>8.5 Letters from School: System of emailing out school letters is widely supported by parents and administrative staff alike.</p>	<p>Nominate one person to manage notice board</p> <p>To hand over responsibility to someone on new committee</p> <p>Consultation between school and Chairperson</p> <p>Minutes and Facebook link to be forwarded to webmasters</p>	<p>2012-2013 committee</p> <p>SKD, 2012-2013 committee</p> <p>SKD, HT</p> <p>SKD</p>
9	Prelim results	<p>This item was added to the agenda at the request of parents contacting the parent council. Concern was expressed about poor results at the recent prelims. HT explained that most of the results were broadly in line with what was predicted by teachers, based on the effort made by pupils to keep up with the curriculum, pay attention in class and undertake set homework.</p> <p>The council discussed several issues that may have impacted on pupil motivation.</p> <p>We discussed ideas for inspiring and motivating pupils:</p>		

		<p>-Careers interviews. -Careers day: We were astonished to hear that the biennial careers convention had been discontinued. -Continue to encourage access to university summer school open days -Contact from successful former pupils (see the 'where are they now' idea, matters arising)</p> <p>Ideas from parents welcome, the school can be contacted in writing, email, via website.</p>		
10	Tutoring	A parent asked about how private tutoring was advertised throughout the school. We agreed that taking on this advertising could be seen as endorsing particular tutors. We agreed that tutors were free to advertise on the public notices in the school, or in an am paipear.	To feed back to the person raising this issue	SKD
11	SAIAAC	SKD informed the meeting about this community group, who works to improve access to recreational sports and activities, through improving facilities, access to sports in the catchment area of lochdar School. This includes Lionacleit School. Lionacleit parent council used to be members. Membership costs £5 per year for groups, members can vote at AGM, stand for election to the board of trustees, minutes will be available etc.	Decision rolled over to new committee	2012-2013 committee
12	Purchase of equipment	<p>We discussed a request from NMI for the Parent Council to purchase an i-pad for the school. She outlined the use that this would be put to, including skills for work, enterprise, pupil council meetings etcetera. She pointed out that IT provision has fallen behind what most pupils have experienced in primary school and at home, and what pupils will face on leaving school. In particular, many organisations use i-phones and i-pads to manage communication, policy and resources.</p> <p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>-SKD: How does this fit in with the school's IT Policy/strategy? Answer: IT is provided and funded by the LEC. The HT supports NM's request.</p> <p>-SKD: Is one i-pad enough? Probably not, although we could ask if the LEC could match our donation.</p> <p>-MW: How would the resource be managed: NMI says that it would be stored in a base class-room, and loaned out as required, and returned at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>We decided that the parent council would fund an i-pad for the school, on the basis that the school would look to getting another i-pad from the LEC.</p>	Parent council to purchase an i-pad	NMI/treasurer to organise through the school
13	AOCB	We agreed to organise a thank-you card and Amazon voucher for £25 for Ann, our minutes secretary, who has indicated that she will be relinquishing her post after two years. Her last stint as secretary will be the AGM	To purchase voucher and card	SKD
14	AGM date	The next meeting of the parent council will be the AGM. We agreed that we would meet on Tuesday 19 th of June at 6:30pm		