

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR
Sgoil Lionacleit

Minute/Note of Meeting

TITLE : Parent Council Meeting

DATE : 5th March 2013 **TIME** : 6.00pm

DISTRIBUTION :

E-mail copy to: school_management_lionacleit and sgoillionacleit

Present: Catherine Ferguson, Mary Bella MacRury, Mary Walker, Miller MacDonald Head Teacher, Kenny MacDonald Depute Head Teacher, Roddy MacIsaac, Margaret MacDonald

Apologies: Rachel Kirk

Item	Summary	Action/ Who? When?
1	<p>New Committee</p> <p>Parent Council appointed new committee. It was also agreed that roles would rotate annually.</p> <p>Chairperson – R MacIsaac Vice-Chair – C Ferguson Treasurer - M MacDonald agreed to stay on as Treasurer.</p> <p>Secretary was not appointed – this role will be appointed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Parent Council members, agendas, minutes etc will be displayed on the website.</p>	
2	<p>Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>HT is currently reviewing the Prelim results. There were some good results across S4/5. The one thing that was evident was the lack of preparation and study. Staff are putting on extra study support classes on after school and at lunchtimes. The list of departments/days will be included in the next Parent letter due out this week.</p> <p>HT is also refreshing the photo permissions for pupils to include video footage so that events like the Rock Challenge can be included on the school website. The website is underused at the moment and should be used to showcase pupil work.</p> <p>We are starting to display pupil work throughout the school and this has been highly commended by pupils, staff and members of the community.</p> <p>Handbook – Sgoil Lionacleit are working on a new format which will be an electronic version available on the website. This handbook will be shorter and more concise. The Government have stipulated what must be included in the Handbook.</p> <p>Asymmetric Week – it has been in the local press recently about the changes to the school day. The asymmetric week would be made up of 33 50 minute periods which</p>	

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	<p>would be 1650 minutes of teaching time. HT is in favour of this new plan. At the moment we have 30 mixed 50/55 minute periods with a registration period. There are lots of benefits to the new plan: - periods are shorter which will suit some subjects and we could cover more subjects that we have been unable to do in the past. There will be one day that finishes early, 4 days will have 7 periods and the other will have 5 periods with a finish of 1pm – these details have not yet been finalised. This timetable structure has been very successful in other regions. Suggestions are that staff can do CPD training that afternoon, partners can take clubs for pupils i.e. sport, community education. CF asked if the Council were willing to pay partners to come and offer these clubs to pupils. HT explained that they would need to find the money from somewhere. This timetable structure could also be a problem because of the transport issues we have at this school – our transport is linked with primary schools. Therefore the new timetable would have to be agreed across the whole community.</p> <p>S5 will choose 5 subjects, 1 period RE, 1 period PE and a PSE period. Guidance will hold Personal and Social Education workshops for them throughout the term. S5 and S6 will get a period of learning for life skills in common with other year groups. S3/4 will take a total of 8 subjects, 2 periods core PE (which is now a national Guideline), 1 period RE, 1 period PSE and 1 period Tutor. S1/2 will have the same mix of subjects plus 2 PE, 1 RE, 1 PSE and 1 tutor. This will fit in with the curriculum in the school. More Skills for Life/Skills for Learning courses would be offered in this new structure following advice from recent ASE report.</p> <p>Teachers will have 6 periods free with the new timetable structure. The national agreed is 5 hours non contact time so this will have flexibility for staff cover.</p> <p>HT is not agreeable to the use of the common timetable across schools in the Western Isles as it will not fit every school, but we will need to see how this develops. E-learning has not been tried yet. This would see courses being broadcast from other school to this school or from this school to other schools. Teaching young pupils by video link/computer remains to be tested. Some of the pilots tried elsewhere have run into problems.</p> <p>MMD asked if subjects would have less time. Yes slightly however Maths and English would be the same. However we could start the new courses in May rather than August which would give us 20 more hours. Pupils would also benefit from more generic skills, learning & teaching and more inter-disciplinary learning across subjects. Dynamic Earth had a very successful partnership with the Science department last year which saw pupils get involved in debating. Also the Health Project which we have been doing for a few years now will be included in the curriculum and will be certificated. There will also be more on numeracy and health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>To be discussed at tomorrow's HT meeting.</p>

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	<p>More vocational courses will be available to pupils however they are not compulsory. HT believes that this new structure will improve the education of the school as it is more beneficial to smaller schools.</p> <p>New Reporting System – We have been working on generating a new reporting system through E1. It has been quite a challenge but it will be worth it in the end. S4 reports will be issued at the end of the week before Parents Evening on 11th March. S5/6 reports and Parents Evening will be the following week. The finished report will be saved onto the pupil record. Pupils will have the chance to comment on the report with a new feedback form that is included in the report.</p> <p>There will be a Choices Evening 21st March where parents and pupils will get the chance to discuss choices/courses with staff.</p> <p>National Qualifications – Sample exams for National 4 and 5 will be available soon, this is for present S3 pupils. This is the equivalent to Credit/Int 2 and General/Int 1.</p> <p>Religious Observance Policy is being reviewed and will be discussed at the Head Teacher's meeting.</p> <p>Weekly assemblies – SMT have been taking assemblies for pupils every Tue/Wed/Thur. This is a more informal setting and we have had positive feedback. It is also a chance to celebrate the good things that happen in the school. HT asked Parent Council if they would support the school's merit system by offering prizes.</p> <p>Comic Relief 15th March – full week of lunchtime activities are planned from Monday 11th March.</p> <p>KMD commented that at recent S3 assembly, all pupils were wearing school colours, still have to work on trousers but a major step forward with the uniform.</p> <p>Staffing – There is still a vacancy in Maths following the sudden resignation of Miss Reeves. The lack of teacher has caused problems for the certificated classes therefore Head Teacher will teach S4/5/6 for the new 6-8 weeks to get them through their exams. Mr Hogg will teach S2/3 and Miss Walker will teach S1 until a suitable replacement is found. One candidate was interviewed however he was not suitable for the post. HT will speak to Neil MacDonald regarding the advertising of this post. There is a need for 4 Maths teachers in the school.</p> <p>MG will be back to work on Monday. TW will be Acting Depute Head in the meantime. TW will deal with discipline/behaviour issues.</p>	<p>To be discussed</p>

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	KMD asked if Blazers could be put on the Agenda for the next Parent Council meeting.	
3	Date of Next Meeting Monday 22 nd April at 5.30pm in Rm 34.	