

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR
Sgoil Lionacleit

Minute/Note of Meeting

TITLE : Parent Council Meeting

DATE : 22nd April 2013 **TIME : 5.30pm**

DISTRIBUTION :

E-mail copy to: school_management_lionacleit and sgoillionacleit

Present: Mary Bella MacRury, Catherine Ferguson, Rachel Kirk, Miller MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald

Apologies: Archie MacDonald, Kenny MacDonald

Item	Summary	Action/ Who? When?
1	<p>Asymmetric Week</p> <p>KMD Depute Head attended the last HT meeting where the asymmetric week was discussed. The asymmetric week would see us finishing at 1pm on Friday with 33 50 minute periods in the week. School would start approx 10 minutes earlier and finish 10 minutes later. Primary schools and transport operators seem to be happy with the plan and do not envisage any problems.</p> <p>HT said one of the benefits of the new week would be using teacher's time more efficiently; staff could be more flexible and offer more courses. Something that does need to be resolved is what resources the authority are going to provide pupils who do not go home early on the Friday. There are funds available which could be used for Active Schools, Community Education, Shinty, Music, Pipe Band etc. There is also the scope for primary school. HT is hoping this can be in place for the start of the new session. Neil MacDonald Learning Community Principal will meet with other parent councils to discuss in detail.</p> <p>There is a concern that in the absence of funded activities that the school may become a babysitting service on the Friday afternoon. HT assured parents that would not happen and all pupils who stayed behind would be taking part in an activity.</p> <p>MBMR was concerned that the early closure on the Friday may impact on the Cafeteria. HT explained that pupils with free schools meals would have to get a lunch and the kitchen staff could prepare snacks etc for pupils staying late.</p> <p>If for any reason the school is not ready for the new week this session, HT would still like to introduce a period of learning & teaching to the curriculum. This period would focus on improving study skills, wider achievement; encourage Duke of Edinburgh, John Muir Award.</p>	<p>Include reference to asymmetric week in next parent letter and invite parents to an open evening - HT</p> <p>Ask pupils what extra curricular activities they would like – HT</p> <p>Discuss with Neil MacDonald - HT</p>
2	<p>Vacant Maths Post</p> <p>4 Maths teachers are required in the department. The post as a full-time permanent Maths teacher will now go to the vacancy panel. Chief Executive had been copied into</p>	

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	all correspondence regarding this matter. Hopefully the post will be filled in June, but definitely by August. A probationer was not considered as the Maths department has had too many changes of late. HT is currently teaching S4/5/6 class with supply covering S2/3. An arrangement for covering the classes during study leave and in June has been agreed.	
3	School Blazers Prefects will be given Blazers. Each prefect will pay a deposit of £5.00. HT would like to reintroduce the uniform for the next session. RK suggested redrafted the uniform policy as it is too broad at the moment. HT agreed and said it should be more specific. HT said that some year groups are better than others at wearing the uniform and this is evident at weekly assemblies.	Cost Blazers.
4	Lunch Service There was one day last week where pupils did not get their lunch until 1.50, even today it was quite slow. CF said that there is only one server at the lunch and that this may be the problem. HT said it could have been down to staff shortages that day. HT commented that the options and the standard of food are very good.	HT to speak to W Smith.
5	Current S3 Courses Column 8 The HT was asked about the Skills for Work element of the courses in S3 column 8. One pupil had said that they had just covered the National course and not done any Skills for Work. There should be an employability and enterprise aspect in the course. The PE department held an activity on Friday afternoon which showed the Skills for Work (enterprise) aspect of their course. RK said that she thought S3 pupils were doing technology work in that course which may be Skills for Work.	HT to speak to R Gillies
6	School Trips Have the last couple of school trips been inclusive? A parent raised a concern that the last English trip to Stratford was not inclusive as only one Higher English class was invited and not the other. Was there a reason for this? HT was unsure why but it could have something to do with what was being taught in the class because all trips have to be linked to the curriculum to justify them and receive school funding. MBMR said that both classes were doing Hamlet. HT said all trips should be inclusive e.g. MB MacIntyre's S4 War Graves trip was opened to English and History pupils and M Morrison's trip to Rome next year is opened to all pupils. The recent Rock Challenge trip showed that trips can be appealing to all pupils. M Morrison's trip to Rome will coincide with the 25 th Anniversary of the school. Supervision of pupils on trips is an important factor and will affect numbers but wherever possible if it is relevant to their course then pupils should get the opportunity to go. MBMR asked if the school was doing anything to mark this occasion. S1/2 Enterprise pupils have been selling charity wristbands. HT said that there is a concert planned for June. This concert will be a Gaelic concert and feature ex pupils and show off our pupil's talents. Is there something planned in English? It should be possible for most things at	

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	<p>the concert will be scripted in English. MMD asked if ex pupils had been contacted. HT thought that Catriona MacCuish was doing this as part of a project for the Museum. HT said that some ex pupils have already been invited in to talk to the pupils at assemblies.</p>	
7	<p>Study Leave</p> <p>There are some S5/6 exams on before pupils are on Study Leave. The SQA timetable is very muddled this year and HT has tried to maximise pupil learning/teaching by not allowing pupils off too early. Main exams for S4 start on Monday 29th April with the exception of Art and Computing. S5/6 Study leave commences on 9th May, however there are 3 exams before that.</p> <p>There are only 2 coincident exams this year – S4 Gaelic and History.</p>	
8	<p>Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>School Reports – S4/5/6 reports were done using E1 software. These were well received by parents. There were some small glitches but these will be resolved. There are great benefits with the new reports. S1/3 reports will be issued in June.</p> <p>There are also Parent's Evenings scheduled in June. We are hoping to change the format of Parents Evening to a more open evening in the Games Hall, where all parents can see any teacher. Recent Parent's Evening was poorly attended.</p> <p>Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band is to be congratulated for their terrific performance at the recent Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championship which saw them winning the Debut Performance category.</p> <p>SQA timetables – S4 pupils were issued with individuals timetables today, S5/6 will be issued tomorrow.</p> <p>4 pupils are to be congratulated for passing the Health Care course. This was run in conjunction with Ospadal Uibhist agus Bharraigh. HT thanked Margaret MacDonald for this. It is hoped each year 2 pupils will be able to take this course, however due to workload on S5, it was suggested that it would be more appropriate to take the course on S6. Pupils are commended for their hard work and dedication.</p> <p>Subject Choices – Some parents have written in to request specific choices in specific columns. Sgoil Lionacleit would like to be as flexible as they can in their choices.</p> <p>MMD asked about S3 exams. Some subjects will not have exams/tests. There will be a timetable drawn up for the S3 exams. HT has asked departments to make up tests lasting no longer than a period length. Pupils will sit their exams/tests in periods/subjects. This will give pupils experience of sitting tests under exam conditions which will help them prepare for next year's prelims.</p> <p>MMD asked about the planned building works. Work on the front entrance and security</p>	

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	<p>was supposed to start in February. No more information as to when this is happening however HT will not allow it now until after the SQA exams. Work could be done on the security of the internal doors. HMle requested the security be improved so it is a must and will be done.</p> <p>New All Weather Pitch is almost finished and will be a great resource for pupils.</p>	
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday 17th June at 5.30pm in Rm34. Note of meeting to be included in next parent letter and on the website.</p>	