

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Minute/Note of Meeting	TITLE	Parent Council Meeting		
	DATE	20 January 2014	TIME	5.30pm
	VENUE	Rm 34		
	DISTRIBUTION			

Present:	Mary Bella MacRury, Archie MacDonald, Miller MacDonald, Roddy MacIsaac, Rachel Kirk, Margaret MacDonald, Catherine Ferguson, Kenny MacDonald, Linda Johnson, George McGee, Howard Warner, Angela Brass, Annabella MacDonald, Ann MacMillan
Apologies:	There were no apologies.
Absent:	

Agenda Item	Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1 Previous Minutes	<p>Road Calming – HT informed the Parent Council that a traffic order should be in place by end March to make the road outside the school a 20mph zone.</p> <p>Clerk – Parent Council have decided the best option might be to advertise for a Clerk to record minutes at meetings. The post carries a salary and an advert can be drawn up to place in Am Papier.</p> <p>Entrance Work – HT informed the Parent Council that there has been a delay due to the Technician in Stornoway. Room 34 has been re-roofed and new windows installed resulting in greater heat in this room. Dust extraction will take place in the Technical Department, the dust will be removed and disposed off.</p>			
2 SFL	Two parents on the Parent Council, both with pupils on the ASN raised their concerns with regards the class teacher's responsibility. HT informed the parents that there is a responsibility with the class teacher to support along with SFL pupils. HT invited both parents to meet with him for further support.			

3	Prelim Timetable	Some parents concerned that the Prelim timetable has not yet been given to pupils and prelims are fast approaching (2 weeks). HT informed the Parent Council that there had been various issues in particular SFL which had caused the delay, he said that PTs should have the timetable tomorrow (21 January 2014) and pupils by Friday (24 January 2014) or earlier if possible. HT also informed the Parent Council that due to the new courses exams were shorter and in some subjects no exam. 12 subjects have been Internally Verified by SQA this month.			
4	S2 Parents' Evening	There will be an S2 Parents' Evening on 6 February 2014, the Parent Council have decided to sell baking along with refreshments. M MacR, CF, BMacD and LJ have all volunteered to help out that evening. £35.60 was raised by selling tablet and shortbread before the Christmas holidays.			
5	Parent Council Bank	There is quite a sum of money currently in the Parent Council bank and it was discussed that this money could contribute towards buying necessary items for the school. HT informed the Parent Council that he had put in a bid to the Council for a sum of money to assist with the purchase of books and development of new courses.			
6	Soap	The issue of lack of soap in some toilets was raised. HT informed the Parent Council that he would get the Janitors to check and log lack of soap, it was discussed that there is a need to have soap for the dispensers as many are empty.			
7	German Provision	HW raised the issue regarding this. He raised the point that there is quite a large uptake of German in Sgoil Lionacleit, discussion followed with regards that German uptake throughout Scotland is now fairly low and the Council will run the course so the current pupils can complete it, this is the reason the post had been advertised for an 18 month period. However, the person appointed is not currently registered with the GTCS (General Teaching Council Scotland) and is in the process of having her transcripts sent to GTCS for registration. This can be a long process and the HT does not see the teacher in place until August 2014. The HT informed the Parent Council that the 2 German			

		interns currently in the school were doing an excellent job and are very professional in their approach. Mr Thomson, from Castlebay School was in Sgoil Lionacleit to offer advice and support re the Unit Assessments to the current pupils. Perhaps another modern language could be offered in the future for example Spanish.			
8	Biology Provision	<p>HW raised concerns regarding Higher Biology, he felt that the pace of teaching was too slow and thus not leaving sufficient time for preparation for the prelim exam. HT informed the Parent Council that it had been difficult with staff absence and changes. Dr Donnelly, a retired Biology teacher is teaching some of the Biology classes and is doing an incredible job, he has his own particular style of teaching, which has led to an improved understanding, he ensure he caters for all needs and levels in his classes, however, it is hoped that Mrs Campbell will be back in school in the near future. KMcD informed the Parent Council that the Biology classes are about 2.5 weeks behind due to various issues including bad weather closures.</p> <p>A new Biology teacher has been appointed to replace Mr Carter. However, the new Biology teacher is currently registering with GTCS, therefore a start date is currently unknown.</p>			
9	School Uniform	HW raised the fact that some pupils who were not wearing school uniform were moved to the back at a school assembly while others remained at the front. Both HT and DHT informed the Parent Council that they did put some pupils to the back as it looks much better with pupils in uniform to be seated at the front in particular when there are visiting speakers, they said if anyone was at the front not wearing school uniform they must not have noticed them. DHT informed the Parent Council that 90% of pupils do wear uniform with a small minority of pupils (and parents) objecting to uniform. Blazers are being measured as some don't fit pupils correctly, the school is arranging for these blazers to be re-measured so they fit. There was discussion on narrowing down school uniform choices, eg making it shirt and tie only. It has been acknowledged that the wearing of uniform has improved significantly over the years.			

10	3+3 Curriculum Model	The school is introducing the 3+3 model in line with the Council's policy. Broad General Education will be on offer for pupils in S1 – S3, with an element of choice in S3 with a view to achieving level 3/4 by end of S3 in 8 subjects. In S4 pupils English and Maths will be compulsory and pupils will then choose 4 other subjects of 5 periods per week. Pupils can then progress to Higher or choose other National courses in S5 and S6. Higher courses will be 6 periods per week. This model is being introduced as classes continue to get smaller and smaller, this will ensure resources are used properly. There may be scope for crashing subjects in S5 and it will be possible for pupils to do 6 subjects in S4, 6 subjects in S5 and 6 subjects in S6, this is a national trend allowing more scope for upper school where all courses have a notional 160 hours. There will be no change to the current asymmetric timetable. HT informed the Parent Council that following discussion with Universities re their admission policies, many will now accept a higher over 2 years.			
11	New Management Information System	HT informed the Parent Council that a new management information system will be installed to replace the current e1 system, this change has been enforced on the Council as the company who operate e1 are no longer wanting to use it.			
12	Any Other Business	DHT informed the Parent Council that there will be a Careers Convention in Sgoil Lionacleit on 20 February in conjunction with Include Us. Further information will be sent to parents in due course.			
13	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting will be on 24 March 2014, 5.30pm, Room 34.			