

Parent Council Meeting
25th January 2018 at 6.30pm

1. Head teacher Mrs Laird,
Principle Teacher Mrs Mullin,
Chair Person Lynn Milton,
Secretary Jenny Neill,
Treasurer Nicola Christie,
Lorraine Young, Fiona Mackenzie, Michael Thorp, Hugh Montague, Sally McCloskey,
Felix McGunnigle, Lisa Cetiner and Audrey Graesser.

Apologies, Julie MacLeod and Corrine McCallum

MEETING DATE CHANGE TO 25 JAN 2018 DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER ON 18 JAN.

2. Minutes from November 29th Approved and seconded
3. Treasurers report

The current balance is 2,517.96. All items that were agreed for in the previous meeting have been paid for including rugs, dance workshops and panto. We also paid out 20 for the small fund lottery licence renewal.

4. Head teacher's report
 - (i) Pupil Equity Funding – It was discussed that we should use some of the money to pay for generation science. The approximate costings for this are £250 a session. We also agreed that £1,800 should be paid out for education city. This will be paid over two years and give the school 3 years of use. It was a cost effective way of getting education city for the school as to pay a yearly subscription would have cost more. Some of the money originally allocated from fundraising from the parent council for outdoor learning equipment will now come out of the pupil equity funding this is around £600. We will still have around £1,000 to spend on pupil equity funding and it needs to be spent by June. More ideas to be discussed in the next meeting.
 - (ii) Budgets are currently being discussed and set by Highland Council and it is likely that this year education budgets will see cuts. At the moment there are no indications that GUPS will be affected in terms of staff numbers and that includes ASN staff. Further detail will follow in due course.

- (iii) Swimming – The costs for transport to take 37 pupils from P5 and P6, was quoted at £1,800. It was agreed by all that this was not cost effective and that the school should just take the P6 children to swimming on Mondays at 2pm, as the transport costs were significantly cheaper.
- (iv) Governance – There is an online questionnaire with 24 questions for parent council and parents to complete and submit by 31st January 2018. This is an important opportunity for Parent Council to express our opinions about the way we feel regarding the changes being proposed by The Governance Review. Lynn Milton will complete the questionnaire on behalf of parent council and it is really important that we try to encourage parents to also complete the questionnaire. We agreed that amongst ourselves we would approach parents and start speaking to them about the changes governance would have on our school and to encourage them to complete the questionnaire. The main concerns raised by parent council were the competency of staff involved, how much involvement as parents do we want to have in running the school, the legal implications this will have on staff as well as parents and what would happen to the education department within our local authority. The overall consensus was that there was not enough clarity on what the changes this Governance Review would bring to our school. There could be some positives i.e. we would be able to source more cost effective resources for our school but also some negatives like increased workload particularly for the Head teacher.

5.

- (i) Facebook – The overall consensus was that Facebook would not benefit the school as an alternative way to communicate with parents. The main concern was that Facebook often attracts negative comments on posts and if serious enough might bring about legal action. There was also concern over who would manage the admin on Facebook and the time commitment required. As no-one volunteered to take this on it was agreed that we would not create a school Facebook page and continue to use our own personal Facebook accounts to promote fundraising events.
- (ii) Community Halloween and Christmas Parties – Hugh came to speak to the parent council about getting other people involved in organising and running the parties. Karen MacKenzie and Angela Montague have been volunteering for the past 8 years and they have stepped down. If no-one takes up the role the parties will stop. Parent Council agreed to send letters out to parents in the hope that we could help find a volunteer.

6. Ceilidh Fundraising Event

- (i) A place has been secured at Eastgate shopping Centre for Saturday to sell raffle tickets. It was agreed that Jenny and Sally would set up the stand in the morning. Lynn and Kirsten would take over for the afternoon and Lisa said she could pop in and help in the afternoon also.
- (ii) On the evening of the event we are able to get access to the hall at 6pm. Kirsten, Fiona, Kerrie, Sally, Nicola, Jenny and Lynn will be available to help set up the hall. Audrey and Lisa will organise the food and need help serving the food. Michael advised Abbi should be free to help at the start of the event and Felix and Hugh have offered to help tidy up at the end.
- (iii) Parent Council will send a note out to parents to ask for hamper donations. It was agreed P1 – P3 would be asked for food donations and P4-P7 for beauty donations. Other great prizes have already been secured by Parent Council and raffle tickets would be promoted for sale at every opportunity.

7. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th March at 6.30pm