

Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 6.30pm

Present;

Mrs Laird (Head Teacher)

Miss Mullin (Principal Teacher)

Lynn Milton (Chair Person)

Jenny Neill (Secretary)

Lorraine Young, Michael Thorp, Audrey Graesser, Fiona MacKenzie and Julie MacLeod

Apologies; Nichola Christie, Hugh Montague, Sally McCloskey, Lisa Cetiner, Corrine McCallum, Felix McGunnigle.

Minutes from 25th January 2018 approved and seconded.

Treasurers Report

The current balance is £5,390.55. This figure includes the deduction of £600 towards the outdoor learning materials, as agreed for in previous meetings. We still have around £305 to allocate towards a member of staff attending the annual school trip. We are hoping that the money raised from the spring disco will cover this expense.

Head Teachers Report (please see attached appendix)

- i) Pupil Equity funding – We were allocated £9,439 and still have £2,571 to spend. The idea of a school walking bus is being shelved for the time being. This is due to the fact that it is a requirement that we have two parent volunteers and at present we could only secure one parent. Also concerns were raised about the weather conditions i.e. what would happen on rain and snow days. Another concern was what would happen if the parent volunteers were unable to help on a specific day.
It was therefore suggested by Kerrie that we spend the remaining money on a PSA who would be employed solely to support teachers, demonstrate and set up the new chrome books that the school have and they would also carry out targeted group maths sessions. This idea was received positively by all in attendance in the meeting and agreed that this is what we would like the remaining money spent on.
- ii) Management of Schools – Currently the Highland Council have put this on hold and is reviewing the implementation of the new management arrangements after completing phase 1. Issues have become apparent during phase 2 (GUPS was due to be reviewed in

Phase 3). The idea is that one head teacher would manage several schools from nursery to high school level (3-18 years) with teaching depute positions within each school. The aim is that this would save money however during phase 2 it became apparent there would be a cost and not a saving. Concerns have been raised by current Head Teachers and other members of staff along with parents about how this will work as every area where schools may be grouped have different challenges that they face. Currently there are no changes to Glenurquhart Primary, but the future is uncertain so further information will be made available as soon as it is known.

- iii) Improvements for next session – The school will continue with STEAM as a focus which covers Science, Technology and Maths. Digital technology will be focused on to further expand this. More information will be sent out in the next newsletter.
- iv) Classes for next session – Currently it looks like we will have 105 pupils, but we are receiving regular placement requests to attend the school and this may change. The school has plenty of space to take more children. Staffing allocation has not been confirmed yet, however, if classes do stay as they are Kerrie has suggested the following:

P1/P2 = Mr McLeod

P3/P4 = Undecided

P4/P5 = Undecided

P6/P7 = Miss MacDonald (Louise)

P6/P7 = Miss Mullin

This will be the first time that there has been two P6/P7 classes but the two classes would work closely together and they would not be decided by age. Careful consideration has been given to these classes and would be about best supporting children's educational needs. Any parents who may be concerned or would like to discuss these proposals further are most welcome to discuss with Mrs Laird.

Gaelic

A new Head Teacher has been appointed for Bunsgoil in Inverness. There is a meeting being held on Tuesday 27th to discuss the next steps for Gaelic medium for Glenurquhart Primary. All parents who are currently transporting their children to Bunsgoil have been invited along. Lynn Milton and Kerrie will also be attending.

Matters arising

- i) Review of Ceilidh/money raised and how we spend it – The Ceilidh was a great success and general feedback was very positive.
We made just over £3,500 in total. The biggest earner was the raffle bringing in £2,850. Around £200 was generated from cake and sweet sales. The door entry made £343. We felt too many tickets were sold and the venue was oversubscribed, so if we did this again we would need to look at numbers. We would also have just broken even on the cost of running the event if the band had not been paid for by Great Glen Stoves. This needs to be taken into consideration for future fundraising events. On a positive we are able to buy two smart boards for the school with the money raised. The Highland Council have said they will contribute £2,935 towards the costs of the smart boards. We would need

to contribute the remaining £3,650. We are delighted that we could get two smart boards and have agreed to spend the money on this.

Due to the success of the Ceilidh and the amount raised we have agreed that the next fundraising event will not take place until next year in summer when we will organise a summer Fete to allow a full year for planning.

- ii) Community Christmas and Halloween parties – A letter no longer needs to be sent on behalf of parent council to parents as Kerry Postma and Laura Black have volunteered to run the event. We are delighted that new volunteers have come forward and members of the parent council have offered to support and help Kerry and Laura where we can.
- iii) Parent Council insurance – Despite initially being advised that we would need to organise our own public liability insurance the council has sorted this and have paid. We are covered for another year.

Fundraising Spring Disco

The 18th May had been suggested as a date for the spring disco, but not all parent council members were available to help on this date, so it was agreed that the date should change to the 1st June. Last time at the spring disco there was confusion as to who had paid for a hot dog and who had not and therefore we will need to come up with a better system and a hand stamp was suggested. We will have sweets and juice for sale. Hugh Montague will be asked if he would volunteer to supervise his nerf game, as this proved very popular with the children. We will also have tattoos, but we need to order more for the event. It was also suggested that we make the event plastic free. This was agreed by all and supports the children's current learning on the environment.

Any other business

Kerrie would like to propose a new ground force date to sort the outside resources. The 4th of May was suggested weather dependent. We would welcome as many parent volunteers, as we have many tasks from re-painting cable reel tables to making an outside music board. We will hopefully have the janitor for the day and kids are also welcome if they are with their parents/carers.

We still need to purchase leaving calculators for the children. We would expect to spend approx. £150 for 18 calculators. Lynn will speak to Nichola regarding this and check if we can source them cheaper. This needs to be organised after the Easter holidays.

Parents Night was very successful with lots of positive feedback. The maths packs proved popular and as suggested by parents timers have been added to the packs. Unfortunately trump cards proved too costly and we will be unable to provide these within the maths packs but they will be bought for class use.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 6.30pm