

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 8th November 2018 at 6.30pm

Present:

Lynn Milton (Chairperson), Kerrie Laird (Head Teacher), Kirstie Mullin (Principal Teacher), Fiona MacKenzie (Vice Chair), Nichola Christie (Treasurer), Sally McCloskey, Lisa Cetiner, Michael Thorpe, Lorraine Young, Rachel MacLennan (Teacher P4/5), Leeanne Curry, Kirsty Francis.

Apologies: Julie Macleod, Jenny Neill, Audrey Graesser, Louise Power, Rebecca Murphy
Corinne McCallum

New members introduced and welcomed.

Minutes from AGM on 13 September 2018 approved and seconded.

Treasurer's report

Current Bank Balance £2426.81

After leaving gift for Hugh bringing balance to approx. £2400

Current year commitments to purchase calculators for P.7 leavers and funding of one staff member on Loch Insh residential trip – total cost approx. £400

Head teacher's Report

Present school roll 119 with 4 enrolled and possible 4 leavers

School Improvement Plan can be found on School website

Eligible parents to be encouraged to apply for free school meals as this will allow further PEF (Pupil Equity Funding) to be awarded

Pantomime booked for 21 November 2018. This will cost £160 from School Fund.

Chromebooks – these will be issued to all P6/7 pupils in March 2019. 1 Chromebook per 5 pupils for all other year groups.

No cases will be provided. Discussion re Parent Council financing the purchase of cases. Smartsack option discussed but these would be for storage within the school and not for home use. Cost involved would equate to approx. £400 for all P6/7 pupils. We can discuss this further after training workshops had been attended by the school staff.

Concerns raised around a range of issues such as security and potential damage/costs etc. Filters would provide protection at school with regard to what the children could access, security filters to be set at home for home use. Training will be provided for Louise Macdonald GUPS Digital Leader.

School WI-Fi to be upgraded by end of November 2018 as currently bandwidth is not designed to cope with this extra internet traffic.

Any concerns re Chromebooks should be forwarded to Kerrie Laird. Responses will be collated and passed onto Louise. Parents and Carers should consider all points that they wish to have raised and addressed and this will be fed back to Highland Council.

School Twitter account. Local Authority is encouraging schools to use Twitter. This was agreed to be set in place but will only be used by Mrs Laird. This is to promote and encourage the sharing of good practice among other things.

Leeanne Curry has kindly volunteered to lead Baking Club from 1.30-2.15 on Wednesdays enabling P6 pupils to continue developing their skills.

Christmas cards have raised a total of £142.60

Fundraising

150 Bags and 200 tea towels ordered.

Prices: £5 per bag and £3 per tea towel.

Sally McCloskey to organise payments received – notes will be sent out for orders.

Christmas Fair, Saturday 28/11/18 11 am-3pm.

Parent helpers required for school stall in addition to Karen Price, Lisa Cetiner and Audrey Graesser. This is to be held at the Drum Farm Courtyard where Christmas decorations and cards that the children have made will be sold for school funds.

Matters Arising

Cost of school day survey discussed and to be forwarded via Survey monkey. Lynn Milton to provide a draft based on the Highland Parent Council Partnership Toolkit.

School lunches were discussed after some pupils had raised concerns re quality of school lunches, portions sizes and taste. Also the amount of food being wasted and discarded was discussed. Mrs Laird to discuss with Catering Manager although we do have limited ability to influence any radical changes.

School photographs. Discussion re possibility of High School pupils getting involved. This might be an opportunity for students who are studying Higher Digital Photography to do some practical work and also to reduce the cost to parents.

Other Fundraising:

Possibility of Rag Bag collection point at school. F. MacKenzie to investigate.

School Spring Disco. Discussion re either free entry plus individual purchase of food, or pay set price for entry to include refreshments.

Film night proposal. Suggested entry price of £3.

Summer fair. Sub-group to lead, additional meeting to be held in December.

AOB

Treasurer required - Responsibilities would include collecting cash for floats from Bank of Scotland in Inverness. This is pre-ordered.

Former pupil Emily McCloskey's environmental campaign managed to secure a grant of £1500 to purchase reusable drinks bottles for all pupils and staff at GUHS. This will be added to the school website.

Lynn Milton and Fiona Mackenzie to attend the HPCP Annual Conference and feedback at next PC meeting.

Date of Next Meeting is Thursday February 7th 2019 at 6.30pm