

Parent Council Minutes

AGM

(rescheduled) Meeting Monday 25th November 2019 @ 6pm

Present:

Kerrie Laird (Headteacher)

Lynn Milton (Chair Person)

Nicola Christie (Treasurer)

Fiona MacKenzie (Vice Chair)

Julie MacLeod, Emma Hill, Suzanne Haviland, Anna Lound, Kath Jones, Leanne Curry, Michael Thorpe & Jenny Neill

1. Apologies: Louise Power, Laura Stebbings, Katherine Batty, Corrine McCallum, Gemma Russell and Miss Mullin (Principal Teacher).

2. Minutes from 9 May 2019 were approved and seconded by Fiona Mackenzie and Nichola Christie.

3. Office bearer roles:

As the original AGM in September could not go ahead due to lack of attendees a letter had been sent to all parents to reschedule and a number of parents had come forward to offer their support.

Lynn Milton remains Chairperson for 2019/20 session, however, it is noted that this will be her final year as her daughter leaves the school next summer to go into S1.

Fiona MacKenzie -Vice chair stepping down. It was proposed and seconded that Jenny Neill take over for this year as Vice Chair. Fiona will remain on Parent Council.

Nicola Christie -Treasurer stepping down. It was proposed and seconded she be replaced by Kath Jones along with Fiona Mackenzie who will become the second bank signatory. Julie McLeod and Nichola Christie are currently signatories however Nichola is stepping down and Julie has only 1 more year left on Parent Council as her son is in Primary 7. New mandates to be sent to Bank of Scotland asap and handover of file to be arranged within 1 week.

Secretary – this role was already vacant and it was proposed and seconded that Suzanne Haviland take over with a handover in the next 2 weeks to be arranged with Lynn Milton who has the file.

Nichola and Fiona were both thanked for their time in their respective roles over the years and for their valued contribution to Parent Council and especially fundraising.

4. Chairpersons report please see attached appendix

5. Head Teacher report please see attached appendix

6. Treasurer report please see attached appendix

The Parent Council currently has £2,734.88 in the bank. We are committed to paying for an extra teacher for the Loch Insh trip (P7) if and when required and for calculators for the P7 leavers gifts which equates to approx. £500 each year. These are long standing commitments and would continue to be honoured each year.

7. AOB

With a number of parent council members moving on as their children have left the primary school it has been noted that we require parents with food hygiene certificates or know if any parent would be willing to do this training. This is necessary when we run an event and offer catering of any sort. Leanne Curry has a food hygiene certificate and Kerrie will investigate if the school is able to pay for food hygiene training for a parent.

Run a mile – Fiona MacKenzie wanted to know if this would replace daily mile and if the school was taking part in this scheme. We do still do this as part of the normal week but not every day.

Parent Council Meeting – followed AGM

School Fundraising – The school has successfully fundraised this year already. The sponsored walk being the biggest success, achieving around approx. £1,700 of much needed funds for the school. This will be something that the school will continue to do in the future at the new earlier slot in September again. It seems that the earlier date was welcomed by both parents and the pupils and allowed for nicer weather to be more or less guaranteed. Mrs Laird will look into other fundraising options like Tesco Bags for Life – the Childcare Centre had secured funding from this scheme during the last year. We will sign up to Easyfundraising which means that when parents pay for something online using a special link they can select a charity to receive a donation. Each purchase would result in a small percentage going to school funds. We will also start a Rag Bag service which would hopefully generate around £100 every 2 months. PEF funding is over £20,000 this year however has to be spent on certain types of experiences and resources for the children for which Mrs Laird has a list of appropriate items.

Parent Council Fundraising – We will need to look at future events to raise money for the school i.e. bingo, ceilidh or a beetle drive. In line with our agreement last year to spread fundraising out to alleviate pressures on parents this would take place in Term 4. It was also suggested that parents may want to raise funds for the school through marshalling at events i.e. ETAP, Lochness Marathon etc. Sponsorship by a parent had allowed the school to purchase covers for the chromebooks – thanks to David MacLean and Leeanne Curry.

Fundraising for the Primary School is becoming increasingly necessary so that our children can continue to have extra experiences within the school. With this in mind some of the current activities that the children have had for many years now need to be re-evaluated.

Swimming – It is becoming increasingly evident that due to the lack of money available to the school continuing to fund the transport for swimming lessons for the Primary 5/6's is going to be a challenge. Mrs Laird has explored all options in order to be able to continue to provide transport for this activity with the cost of transport alone reaching approx £4,000 for two terms of swimming. Options around paying for staff to be trained to drive a mini bus, but also finding suitable buses that

can transport approx. 30 children is still an issue. The High School have a minibus, but it only has 15 seats and the Primary School would not be able to block book it for the 10 week term. Mrs Laird is continuing to work closely with Balnain Primary, Cannich Primary and Siorbheas to find a solution going forward. We have managed to secure the swimming for the remaining P5's next term, so that no child from the current P5's misses out. With the composite set up some had already been with the P6 class.

Staffing the swimming lesson trips requires a teaching member of staff, a PSA and a parent volunteer for a half day. Last term the school was unable to secure a parent volunteer. Also with cuts coming to ASN support for staffing it will no longer be viable to send a PSA on these trips therefore at least one parent volunteer, ideally two would need to be secured in order for the trips to go ahead in 2020/2021.

Sports kit – The primary school would like to have a full kit with school logo for approx. 40 children who represent the school in sporting activities. The cost of the full kit was approx. £1,400 and a half kit would cost approx £800. School funds would not cover this cost and it had been previously agreed last year that Parent Council would help to pay for these. Jenny Neill has offered to pay for the full kit through Great Glen Stoves as a business sponsorship. Mrs Laird will liase with Mr Thorpe to ensure they decide on the best option to order and then confirm the cost.

Panto – The children enjoyed the panto coming to the school again this term and performing Aladdin. Mrs Laird has booked again for next year but had been unable to book their April performance next year Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as it would be another £180 which she would not be able to cover. It was decided Parent Council would fund this from the current money available in Parent Council funds as drama and dance would be a focus for the children next session.

AOB to bring back to next meeting - Parent Council need to gather wider views of parents and carers to decide if it is possible to continue with swimming during the school day. Would parents be willing to fundraise for the transport for the swimming activity to continue? If so parent volunteers need to be secured in advance. Careful consideration will need to be given to what the Parent Council feels is value for money with the money that is being raised and if this money could be better spent elsewhere. In the past Parent Council raised over £3,500 towards the cost of 2 smart boards, however, this does benefit a much larger group of children. Even if we raised this amount again it would not cover the cost of transport to swimming and it would be an annual commitment until such time as school budgets were under less pressure. Lynn Milton will prepare a letter to go out to parents to gather their opinions.

Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th January 2020 @ 6.30pm