

INVERGARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 15TH MAY 2014, 8.00 PM

Present: Ms Wendy Scollay Miss Catherine MacPherson
Ms Soraya Barreno Miss Maria MacRae
Mrs Marion Riddle Ms Katherine Douglas
Mrs Irene Rodgers Ms Emma Radloff
Mrs Gayle Rand Mrs Dee Collins
Ms Lesley McNeill

Apologies: Mr Bill Clark Mrs Tracey MacCallum
Mrs Julie Gilchrist Mrs Lauren Grant
Mrs Carol Littlewood

Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Minutes read and agreed.

Bank Accounts

PC Account balance £939.37.

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School Benches

Completed and delivered. Many thanks to Alasdair Fraser.

Nursery Snack Funding

An account has now been set up at Glen Great Trading, Fort Augustus. Lauren is collecting donations from parents.

School Meals

Now on the back burner, due we understand, because of lack of funding to carry out the necessary upgrades needed within the school.

P6/7 City Trip

Arrangements have all been finalised. Funds held in the bank account need to go to Emily as soon as possible to allow her to pay for accommodation, activities, meals etc.

Winter Road Maintenance on School Bus Runs

After several emails to and from Highland Council's various departments, the Parent Council has expressed concern about the route no longer being a priority for winter maintenance despite it being a school bus run. There is a group of residents from further down the glen who have formed a committee to take this forward.

Clearing School House

The children sent out a flyer asking for help with some basic maintenance tasks, as part of their Eco-Schools projects. Thank you letters have been sent out to those who were able to help. The possibility of a skip to clear the house is still pending, a general 'sort-out' is needed to ensure wanted items aren't thrown away.

PE Transport Donation

Swimming to Fort William is due to start again next term; and with a school trip, several sports competitions and general trips out coming up shortly, it was decided that Maria would apply to the trust for a donation to help with school transportation. Wendy to look into costings for hire of buses.

Irene asked about parents attending school trips, parent helpers may be required on the day depending upon pupil numbers.

Action: Maria/Wendy

Parent Council Fund Raising Event

Beetle Drive was held on 22nd March. It was well attended with funds of £249 being raised for the Parent Council account. Many thanks to all those who attended, donated raffle prizes and gave their time to help.

AGENDA

Staff Recruitment

Norma Young was invited to a meeting with all parents of the school on 17th March to discuss future staffing arrangements for Invergarry. With Wendy moving away at the end of the term, parents unanimously agreed for a replacement Teaching Head to be sought. Norma again came along to the school to talk with parents at the beginning of this evening's AGM meeting. With the building of new schools in Fort William and the merging of primary schools in the town, a situation whereby staff will need to be deployed has arisen. Norma explained that this takes priority over advertising for new staff and parent consultation is not required for these situations. Mrs Kim Bentley, Acting Head for St Mary's RC Primary School, is keen to take on the role at Invergarry. It is hoped a meeting with her can be set up soon.

However, the teaching days and non-teaching days for the position isn't very clear. What will happen with Emily Brown's position is also unclear. Discussions with staff to be held and parents to be informed of decisions.

MUGA Update

Maria gave the Parent Council an update of the planned resurfacing project. After a meeting with Dorothy Gibb, Estates Officer for The Highland Council, revised quotes had to be sought due to issues with drainage. However the Ecosse Sports quote still came back more favourable than the other companies approached (in the region of £33k plus VAT). The school has now issued an order number in order for the VAT to be reclaimed.

Norma Young has requested that work does not commence until the Education Department has conducted a feasibility study on new school works. Norma has requested copies of plans for the MUGA to be emailed over to her for her to forward to the relevant department (Maria has done this already on her request).

Everyone is keen for this to move along and for work to start, funding has been agreed in principle from the Trust as it will be made available for the wider community to use outside of school hours (The Highland Council Playground Forum are also holding funds to be made available).

Action: Maria

Pupil Safety at School Gates

To ensure the safety of all pupils at the school, parents are requested to wait by the bench further up the school drive and away from the road. Where parents are waiting at present is blocking the view for Amy when the children run out of school (some quite enthusiastically!) at home times. It would be helpful for this to be entered into the school handbook for parents' reference.

In addition, please can it be reiterated that there is to be no parking around the school entrance, especially on the pavements. This is common sense and the safety of our children must be paramount.

Action: School for Handbook; ALL PARENTS

AOB

School Bus

Pupils in P1-3 class are regularly late coming out of school, this has a knock-on effect for the older class, who are sometimes left waiting for the bus unsupervised. Wendy has agreed to take this up with staff to discuss a solution.

Action: Wendy

Boundary/Playground Issues

With Invergarry having such a small numbers of pupils, there is no provision for playground supervision. Issues has been raised surrounding boundaries, den building and children being excluded from 'gangs'.

The boundaries within the school have been discussed with the children and rules reinforced. The other playground issues are discussed regularly at circle-time and is on-going.

Action: Staff

School Sign & Gate

The sign and gate are in desperate need of varnishing/oiling as the wood is starting to crack. Is it possible to find out what type of product is best to use so the Parent Council can get a group together to apply it?

In addition, Irene feels that the Lollypop Hut looks quite ugly in comparison to the rest of the entrance. Is there something that can be suggested to remedy this?

Action: Wendy/Parent Council

Lochaber Area - After Schools Activities

Marion has been in touch with Alison Martin, the Active Schools Co-Ordinator for Highlife Highland as the programme for summer sports hadn't been issued to parents. Alison told Marion that Invergarry wasn't included in some things and she hadn't emailed the programme to the school. Wendy to get in touch with Alison to complain.

Action: Wendy

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 11th September 2014, 6.30pm.

No further business, meeting closed at 9.25pm.