

INVERGARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2015, 6.30 PM

Present: Mrs Kim Bentley Miss Maria MacRae Mrs Gayle Rand
Mrs Dee Collins Mrs Irene Rodgers Mrs Norma Fraser
Mrs Lauren Grant Mrs Joy Middleton Mr Clem Farnan
Mr Clem Farnan Mrs Tracey MacCallum Ms Gillian Carruthers
Mrs Marion Riddle

Apologies: Mrs Julie Gilchrist Ms Lesley McNeill Ms Soraya Barreno

Maria welcomed Joy to the meeting as the teacher representative at the Parent Council this evening.

Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

School Sign and Gate

Julie has been in touch with Ian Chalmers from The Black Isle regarding the gates/sign, they are organising a date for him to visit.

School Buildings Plan

Kim has heard from Dorothy Gibb that it is now likely to be at least two years before any work will start on the school. Because of access for proposed works, it is not feasible for the MUGA to go ahead. Following on from this, parents have requested that confirmation that Invergarry PS is a 'red-line' school is obtained in writing from Norma Young.

Action: Kim

Nursery Snack Funding

Nursery fundraising/donations total stand at £89.62. Nursery snack purchases are being made on account at Girvans and costs being covered by donations made.

School Website

Kim and Clem to set a date to work on updating the website.

Website address is: www.invergarryprimary.org.uk

Free School Lunches for P1 – P3

The free school lunches for P1-P3 began at the beginning of January, with no kitchen facilities at the school the monetary lunch rate will be paid to parents instead. The school has a form to complete and parents are to be reimbursed by cheque each month.

Skiing P5-P7

Skiing this term for the older pupils is due to start on 23rd January, weather permitting.

School Grounds – Parent Working Party

A date of Saturday, 21st March has been set for a Parents/Children Working Party to help with tidying up the grounds and carrying out some up-keeping tasks. A time of 10am – 3pm has been suggested with helpers dropping in whenever they can during this time, or perhaps bringing along a packed lunch. Dee has been compiling a list a jobs. Weather Permitting.

Action: Dee, All Parents

Highland Games Donation

The children were asked for ideas/wish list of what they would like to spend this donation on. Playground equipment, games for the shelter, and possibly paint to mark out a football pitch/hopscotch. Kim will email Alison regarding this.

Action: Kim

Nuts/Healthy Snacks

Kim confirmed that the school is no longer a 'nut-free zone', and that healthy 'play-pieces' are encouraged.

Notice Board

Irene does have a notice board that she is happy to donate to the school. It was suggested that this could be done during the Parents' Working party on 21st March. Dee has offered to see if she can obtain a paint donation to smarten up Amy's shed also.

Action: Irene/Dee

AGENDA

Head Teacher's Report

Pupil Council: The elected Pupil Council members have been working on several items, including a talk at assembly about their jobs, reinstating the tuck-shop (Tuesdays and Thursdays), a possibly cross-country route through the school grounds for the summer term, and re-instating the 'Lonely-Step'. It will be good for the Pupil Council to come along to the Parent Council AGM to present a summary of their roles.

Global Citizenship/Eco Schools (Thursday Afternoons): The pupils have been making contact with a primary school in Australia, with a few to exploring the links and comparisons between Scots and Australians. The children are working in mixed-age groups for these tasks which is helping develop their social skills. Eco schools is linked to the sustainability part of the curriculum.

Scottish Food Week: 23rd – 27th February. An open afternoon is planned for 26th February with a Scottish Food theme. The school will ask for help in the morning from parents to help preparation of foods to be served. There are plans for a school trip on 25th February, possibly the Lochaber Collage in the morning, with a visit to the Lochaber Rural Complex in the afternoon (Field to Fork initiative).

Lochaber Music Festival: 13th – 19th March. The school has entered the choral competition this year, with the pupils working on a vocal piece with Catherine MacDonald. Kim has entered all pupils into the Poetry/Verse Speaking competition, but they are able to choose not to perform.

Creative Lochaber Competition: Some pupils are entering this year with their painting and writing work.

Burn/Playground Supervision

Several parents are expressing concern over access to the burn by children during break times; children are returning home with wet clothing and footwear where they have been playing in the water. There was a discussion about the pros/cons of the burn access and allowing children to make their own risk-assessments. The teachers are to reiterate to the children the rules surrounding playing in the burn and will report back to individual parents if children are found in the burn.

Parents are pushing for a resolution over the ban of children playing in the forest areas of the school. Ian Jackson has completed his report, which is now with Norma Young.

Residential Trip 2015

The residential trip for year P6/7 has been booked at Glencoe for 21st – 24th April 2015, at a cost of £199 plus VAT per place plus transport costs. Transport has been booked for 9 children and 1 adult. As in previous years, a £50 donation per child will be asked from families with fundraising in place for the balance and to apply for a grant to cover the transport.

The bank account currently stands at £2,771.34. The Christmas Hamper Raffle raised in excess of £180, with a profit of £63 being made from sale of the tea-towels.

GGASAC

As in previous years, it is hoped to book 5 sessions during May/June on a Friday after school (P1-P3 3.15pm – 4.15pm, P4-P7 4.30pm – 5.30pm). If possible, to ask the children which activities they preferred in order to look at quotes and to apply for a grant. At present there is £760.87 in the bank account, cost of last year's activities was £1,430. A donation is asked of each family of £10 to go towards the fees. Garry MacKay has emailed Maria and offered to help source activities if needed. Maria will speak to Julie about a meeting to start organising this year's activities, with a provisional date of Thursday, 19th February, 7.30pm.

Action: Maria, School/Children for activity preferences, committee members

AOB

Parent Council Role

The Parent Council's role is for discussion/action on wider and general issues and to support the school and teachers. Any individual issues should be directed in the first instance to the staff at the school. Parent Council emails are now being sent as BCC to protect email addresses.

Severe Weather

There was a recent incident where the playground shelter was flooded because of extremely heavy rain and gales. Children arriving on the early school bus (8.40am) were unable to take shelter until school opened at 9am. A request by parents that in future children be allowed in the school building in cases of extreme weather. In addition, please can parents ensure that children are appropriately dressed for poor weather, and that teachers request that children wear their coats when outside in cold/wet weather.

Parent Help with Transport

Parent transport is very much appreciated and sometimes a necessity for the whole school to attend external events. Please can as much notice be given as possible to parents if transport is required.

There was a discussion around DBS checks on drivers being needed, Kim to look into this.

Action: Kim

Parent Council Bank Account

Bank account balance stands at £1,228.95.

PC Fundraiser – Beetle Drive

It was agreed to hold another Beetle Drive following the success of last year. Dee has offered to help organise the game again, Tracey will produce the posters, Gayle to book the hall for Saturday, 7th March (for a 7pm start). PC members to help with raffle and refreshments.

Action: All

Acknowledgements

The School Concert was excellent once again, thanks to all involved.

Thanks to staff for getting into school the previous week during the snowy weather.

DATE OF AGM & NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 7th May 2015, 6.30pm.

Letters to go out to all parents re AGM. Accounts to be verified for AGM

Actions: Gayle, Dee, Tracey

No further business, meeting closed at 8.15pm.