

Gairloch High School Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 15th January 2019

Present: Vanessa Quinn, Julie Brady, Debbie Dillon, Tony Breen, Lucy Cairney, Wilma Drummond, Amber Drummond, Stewart Caddell, Amy Gudgeon, Fiona MacKenzie, Emma Smith, Kirsty Copland, Pam Urquart, Angela Rae, Barbara-Ann Cummisky

Apologies: Chris Hildrey, Debbie Leigh, Ian and Ingela Davis

Fundraising discussions

Christmas Fair and licensed raffle agreed. Debbie to look into the licensed raffle and restrictions. Date agreed as Friday 6 December 2019. Debbie to book the Community Hall all day, not the annexe.

Sponsored walk from Tollie to Slattadale. School to look at dates in June.

Curry event in September. Takeaway and/or sit in. Friday 6 September 2019.

Fund raising: Debbie Dillon – curry, Kirsty Copland – sponsored walk, Julie Brady/Vanessa Quinn – Christmas Fair.

Burns Supper – hold this idea for next year.

Parent Council Meeting

1 Minutes of last meeting

Kirsty Copland approved the minutes and Julie Brady seconded.

2 Matters arising from previous meeting

Covered in the agenda

3 Head Teacher Report

Careers day was very successful. Julie Brady was applauded for her efforts. Definitely something we need to continue with. A gaelic careers day followed with comments from the kids that the in-school one was better. There was also a careers day held and attended in Ullapool.

Social media – there was a bit of an issue on this and an assembly was held by Stuart Caddell. Information was also shared with parents.

A certificate was awarded to the school by the Biosphere group looking to promote the area. Looking to extend to a P7 project as part of their transition to secondary school.

Fundraising continues with cake bake sales and children in need. Fund raising has gone towards a boy with a jaw deformity who has had surgery with contributions from GHS fundraising along with another charity.

Malawi links continue with the idea of teacher exchange visits to be revisited. An opportunity also exists for ASG to be provided with a grant for up to £35K.

Developing target setting with the junior school. Pupils to have awareness of the level they are working at and ability to set targets for later years.

Cairngorm trip – fund raising will be on 16 March 2019.

Ski trip – a quarter of the school will be attending this year which is incredible. Overnight trip to Glasgow next Friday night for the flight out.

Pupil equity fund (PEF) – looking at how resources will be spent in this area.

HMIE/Highland Council joint visit on Tuesday 5 February at 1.55 pm. They will decide whether they will sign the school off in full or, possibly undertake another full inspection. They would like to meet members of the Parent Council at this meeting.

Working groups have been going on in the school. Four or five members of the parent council would be appreciated in attending and these members will be coached in what has been going on and what progress has been made. A lot of the issues are above the level of the staff and it would be great to have positive support for the efforts made by the teaching staff and the school generally. Tony Breen to include a bullet point style update on where we were then versus where we are now in the newsletter. Debbie Dillon, Kirsty Copland and Julie Brady to attend.

4 Re-advertising of Head Teacher Post

Vanessa updated on her meeting with James Vance at the conference in November. She had pointed out the challenges of our location but difference in treatment versus e.g. the Western Isles. There was a subsequent visit to the school and this seemed positive but the role is to be re-advertised at the same salary. We need to wait to see what happens in the actual advert which should be out very soon. We can follow up on this with emails regarding the advertising of the role.

5 S2 Choices

Looking at the timetable for S2 options. S2 will have a personalised timetable around a choice of 11 subjects. Increasing the choices by educating into how and when National 5 and Highers can be taken, use of West Highland College and foundation apprenticeships. National 4/5 are likely to still be taught in the same class. An information booklet is being prepared for parents and also a booklet giving some examples of different pathways.

German continues to be a problem with Mrs Somers still off. Vanessa offered her services for conversational German.

6 Contribution towards and enhancement of our children's school experience

Lockers – Julie Brady asked if lockers were available in school? Some do still exist. Historically, they used to be located in the hall. When investment has been made by schools recently they have been procured at great expense and then not used. Emma Smith has offered the kids the opportunity to leave stuff in her locked classroom but most want/feel they want to take everything back and forward all the time.

7 Slattadale

Stuart Caddell provided an update. There is a lease in existence even though we have not been paying anything towards it. A meeting was held with the Forestry Commission before Christmas and prepared to do a Community Asset Transfer Scheme if the appropriate committee was set up. Under this scheme the building could be purchased for a small amount. Part of the roof has fallen in but otherwise it is in reasonable condition. 2 classrooms, toilet and kitchen area. It is the store room where the roof has fallen in. Grant funding could be looked for if purchased. Longer term could potentially buy some land to the back of the building for a small courtyard.

Lots of educational opportunities.

Email Fiona and Stuart if interested in helping move this forward. Fiona has a meeting on Thursday afternoon with Community Interest Support worker.

8 AOB

Career Day hall hire was £90.00. Parent Council have agreed to pay this.

Stuart Smith was co-opted on to the Parent Council as chaplain. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have him still on the parent council. Vanessa Quinn to provide the email to Debbie for future inclusion.

A question was raised regarding the assembly before Christmas where there was a comment was made slightly off-piste. Parents are able to request that their children opt out of worship assemblies. It is difficult for the school to broaden the religious aspect of the assemblies as we can generally work with the local faiths.

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th April – date of next meeting

Fundraising meeting to be arranged once we know the date in June.

Meeting concluded at 9.05 pm