

**Gairloch High School Parent Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - 7 pm**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Vanessa Quinn, Debbie Dillon, Kirsty Copland (part meeting), Julie Brady, Amy Gudgeon, Fiona MacKenzie, Bob McKenzie, Wim Chalmet, Stuart Caddell, Ian Davis Emma Smith

**Apologies:** Angela Rae, Stuart Smith, Chris Hildrey, Deborah Leigh, Gerry Baptist

**1 Review of previous minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Vanessa Quinn proposed, Julie Brady seconded.

**2 Matters arising from previous meeting**

Generally covered by Wim Chalmet and the items on the agenda

The new sign has arrived and is up. It is a bit smaller than expected but better than the one we had!

Minibus update – 2 x 9 seaters give more flexibility as within the level able to be driven by most people. This might be more expensive but this is a sensible option.

They have been ordered and should be available sometime in January. The question on the need for MIDAS training has still to be answered. However, if this is needed it is only a 2 hour test. The school may come back to the Parent council once the costs are known to see if we can help.

**3 Pupil Report**

Amy Gudgeon provided an update on activities.

School Dance – organisation largely been given to the S6 prefect team. There will be a theme for the decoration of the multi-purpose hall. A professional photographer is going to be recruited to cover the event. Small fee for the photographs may be charged. This will allow for a small payment for the photographer and also, potentially, provide funds for the upcoming S6 to organise the next dance.

SMART schools council – this is something we want to start to replace the pupil council which has not run for a few years. First meetings – school captains will have time in registration classes to have discussion on various aspects – the first is “how can we raise the profile of our school in the community?” Moving on there is hoped to be a couple of pupils in each year group to take the process forward. Previously it was felt that the pupil council were not covering learning in the classroom type issues and focussed more on things like broken mirrors in the bathroom.

Prefects to be present in class rooms supporting teachers in subject areas that they have an interest in.

**4 Head Teachers Report**

Increasing pupil participation in decision making and involvement and awareness in school business.

Newsletter demonstrates a lot of areas that are ongoing in the school.

Education Scotland have made a video of progress since last year to be released next week sometime. An invitation will go out to the parents of the pupil years involved and subsequently we can view it as the Parent Council.

Film G have produced 2 films to be released mid December/January and it is hoped will be judged very well.

Celebration Assembly – Wim Chalmet has been understanding how this credit system works and what the criteria are. Not forgotten about this. Pupil feedback is being sought on this.

Staff – self evaluation process ongoing. Professional review for staff looking on areas for development in line with the school improvement plan. 35 hours CPD has to be undertaken.

Audit of the school improvement plan has been undertaken and status updated.

Education Scotland are collaborating with the school on middle leadership and aspirational middle leaders.

DoE sign up for S3 has been fantastic. 16 pupils have signed up for this and also have signed up for the Loch Eil trip started last year.

Tracking/Monitoring Dashboard – Stuart Caddell updated the Parent Council on progress in this area. An instructional video to be put together on-line and the link will be passed on to the parent council. Designed to be helpful for all but to also provide a resource for parents/carers to review progress and provide support.

## **5 Staffing 2020-2021-2022**

Massive issue – we are again deemed to be overstaffed. This is due to a fall in roll numbers once again. There is good time for negotiation as the review will be undertaken again in March 2020. Unfortunately, now this information is available, this means that adjustments have to be made. The Art role can not be advertised as a permanent post but will be on a fixed term until the Easter holidays. The promoted role for Mrs Murton has been delayed due to the person who needs to review having a family bereavement. Forward planning over the next 2 to 3 years demonstrates that the role will decrease further and, with the staffing formula used, overstaffing will be further emphasised. Wim Chalmet needs to look at ways to mitigate this without allowing the curriculum to suffer. One area is looking at the curriculum and what is offered. Ullapool and Ardnamurchan are schools that we can look at to see how they are working. Vanessa to contact them and see if there are any learnings.

Perhaps the Parent Council ASG should be re-established? At the end of the day it is in the interests of everyone with children in the area as their children will go to Gairloch High School.

This is reality but how we deal with it as a Parent Council but also as a community is up to us as we can try and approach it with positivity.

## **6 Career Day – update from Stuart Caddell**

Ashley Woodhouse (DYW) has been working with the school over the last few months. He has been building up a network of local business partners.

This year will be slightly different and we will be working with Ullapool who will bring their S3 pupils. There will be a morning session this year for S1-3. The S3 groups from Ullapool and Gairloch will be run together to encourage networking. There will be a second event for senior pupils later in the year. There are about 18 stalls with perhaps one or two more to come.

Parents are very welcome to pop in and see what is going on.

Could the Parent Council sponsor the teas and coffees, biscuits too? Yes, we have agreed to provide the funding. Can the parent council also make the teas and coffees?

The date is 6 November 2019 so, help from 10.15 am would be appreciated. Julie and Vanessa said they would help.

## **7 Fundraising**

Quick meeting held earlier about the Christmas Fayre. Progress has been made with 13 stalls already booked with a good range. Kirsty has prepared a list for donations for hampers and will send that to Delwyn to ask to be circulated this week. Deadline for 20 November. There has been a generous donation of around 15 bottles of white wine and Prosecco.

One of the stalls is for Slattadale awareness. Wreaths will be sold on this stall with funds for Slattadale but the main emphasis is on awareness.

Music:

Emma spoke to Trish who agreed and said speak to her nearer the time

Pipe Band are happy to play

Amy agreed that C for Craic could do it.

Caroline Browne to provide Highland Dancers if she is still here (perhaps Arlene Morrison could coordinate if Caroline is no longer here?)

Food: Venison Casserole (Julie)

Chilli and Tacos (Debbie)

Macaroni Cheese (combined effort)

S6 to run the kitchen!

Advert to go in the yellow pages - Julie

## **8 Contributing towards and enhancement of our children's school experience**

Pruning Day suggested and wreaths proposed to be made for the Slattadale stall.

Hoogle bed suggested.

Application for National Lottery money window is about to open. Should we apply for some money to improve this area?? Worth a try. The area needs to be as low maintenance as possible.

Fiona going to take the lead on this.

## **9 Any Other Business**

Stuart – Hospitality has had a number of issues. West Highland College provide the resource. This has been the only face to face course. The school has now got the

opportunity to be involved in the hiring and firing. A review will be taken very soon to determine what steps need to be taken. Pupils will be involved in this review. Perhaps the Parent Council needs to provide feedback to the Head of Curriculum. A suggestion was proposed that in the event of the course being pulled that the pupils could be compensated by perhaps being given the opportunity to do a food hygiene certificate.

Slattadale – positive note. Needs to come off the Parent Council Agenda and move it onto an agenda of its own. 3 or 4 people involved in the Slattadale project. Banners etc being produced. A lot of reading has been done and now looking at liaising with Highland and Island Development Trust to look at funding options. Obtaining the land may take up to 18 months to 2 years. Organisationally, unsure which route will be taken – Developmental or Social Enterprise. People to be invited to steering group depending on skills.

Vanessa raised the GAMS Therapy Centre potential building on the old pitch and putt course at The Glebe. Vanessa shared information about how there were opportunities for cross generation activities.

#### **10 Dates of next meetings**

Meeting last week in November to make hampers. Kirsty to advise.  
21 January 2020