

MEETING OF SGOIL NAN LOCH PARENT COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2007 AT 7PM IN SGOIL NAN LOCH

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:-** Mr Reeves Head Teacher  
Mairi Mackinnon  
Raechelle Martin  
Hector Martin  
Pat Macaskill  
Fiona Macleod  
Denise Thornton  
Ishbel Macdonald  
Lorna Macaulay  
Donna Macdonald  
Emia Macleod

Mr Reeves welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the role of the Parent Forum/Parent Council. Introductions were made. It was explained to the group that the Parent Council would replace the disbanded School Board and Caraidean Sgoil nan Loch (PTA). Pat Macaskill notified the council that she did not intend to take up any office post; however, she would be willing to offer support to the group if required. The constitution was agreed and office bearers elected as follows:

Chairperson	Lorna Macaulay
Vice Chairperson	Mairi Mackinnon
Secretary	Ishbel Macdonald
Treasurer	Emia Macleod

The group would meet once a term or more frequently if required on a Monday evening at 7:30pm.

Lorna Macaulay took over the chair from this point.

*Parents as Partners Welcome Pack*

Parent council members were issued with a toolkit issued by the Scottish Executive (Scottish Government) to guide them in the formation of the new council. 'Parentzone', an informative website designed to develop partnerships between parents and schools was discussed and it was agreed to signpost parents to the site [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk)

*Dictionaries*

Mr Reeves suggested that the tradition of presenting pupils with a dictionary at the end of Secondary 2 should continue and that the financial balance from the disbanded School Board would be transferred automatically to the Parent Council.

All present agreed that the immediate main objective for the Parent Council was the opposition to the planned rationalisation of Secondary 1 and 2. Consultation timescale on S1/2 was discussed. It was envisaged that there would be issues surrounding the proximity of Sgoil nan Loch to the Nicolson Institute with regard to

the planned closure and it was agreed to invite the local councillor along to the next Parent Council meeting to discuss the current situation. A meeting would be arranged for after the October break. The S1 – S3 model was discussed, which in itself presented difficulties for specialised staff but the curriculum could be delivered in a particular way. Mr Reeves explained how 'The Curriculum for Excellence' is central to providing more freedom for teachers, greater choice and opportunity for pupils and a single coherent curriculum for all young people. Sgoil nan Loch is able to cater for the individual needs of pupils and is already doing much of what is needed to underpin 'The Curriculum for Excellence.'

#### *Other Parent Councils*

It was recommended that there be opportunities to meet with other Parent Councils from around the island and in particular those who had been placed in a similar situation.

#### *UHI Model*

The UHI model, which has educational institutions spread throughout the Highlands and Islands, was discussed as a possibility for the 3-18 curriculum. The Nicolson as the central hub and Sgoil nan Loch and other rural schools as satellite centres. These satellite centres could be a life long learning centre for the whole community.

#### *Communication*

It was agreed to set up a regular newsletter to keep parents informed. A letter would be sent out initially to introduce the Parent Council to the parents which would include contact details. The Parent Council would serve in a support capacity for parents.

#### *Name*

There was some discussion surrounding the name of the newly formed council. Traditionally the pupils had competitions to decide names and to keep them involved in every aspect of school life. For the time being the Parent Council would be known as The Sgoil nan Loch Parent Council.

#### *Date of next meeting*

12 November 2007 at 8.00