

# SGOIL NAN LOCH PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 8pm in Sgoil Nan Loch.

Present: Lorna Macaulay, Chair  
Rachelle Martin  
Denise Thornton  
Emia Macleod  
Mairi Mackinnon  
Fiona Macleod  
Councillor Annie Macdonald  
Councillor Alex Macdonald  
Rachel Wade  
Tony Wade  
Andrew Reeves, Head Teacher  
Katie Ann Macleod, Depute Head  
Alice Macleod, Clerk

Apologies Donna Macdonald  
Ishbal Macdonald  
Councillor Norman Macdonald

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and also welcomed Tony & Rachel Wade as new members on the Parent Council.

## **Minutes of Last Meeting - 12/11/07**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were approved as an accurate record. Proposed by Emia and seconded by Raechelle.

## **Matters Arising**

### Constitution & Membership

Lorna had approached Chrissie Macleod, who although happy to support the Parent Council in anyway she can, is unable to commit at this time to membership of Parent Council.

Tony Wade is a member of the wider Parent Forum and is therefore a parent representative on the Parent Council, Rachel Wade was co-opted onto the PC. The constitution needs to be amended to state that there are 11 parent representatives on the PC. A revised constitution to be sent to Anne Maciver, Education Department.

**Action: Alice**

Lorna had written to all 3 councillors inviting them to meetings of the Parent Council and thanked both Annie & Alex for attending and looked forward to their support of the school and parent council's activities.

### Parent Council Administrative/Finances

Alice submitted all the necessary forms to the Bank and is awaiting a cheque and pay-in book.

### Scottish Parent Councils Association

Application form to be sent once cheque book is received.

**Action: Alice**

### Bullying Issue

Lorna had written to Donald Macleod, Education Department and received a positive response. Donald advised that the issue be firstly identified through the Health Promoting School process of audit. If and when it has been identified as a development priority then the action plan would specify what actions were necessary to address the issue.

Mr Reeves reported that Health Promoting status is coming up in the next few weeks and will bring this forward. It will be raised at the Parent/Teacher Consultation after the New Year.

### **School Update**

Mr Reeves gave a verbal update for this meeting. A written report will be produced for future meetings and will be circulated before the meeting.

- Plasma Screen - 1 Lan system. Able to have different inputs, information systems, videos, can schedule it to change at certain time, have results of in-house competitions etc.
- School Concert on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10am. Burns Supper on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
- P7's residential to Gearranan Blackhouse in April 2008
- S2 residential to Edinburgh in June 2008
- Environmental Project to be continued, it would be good for the Council to see the work that has been done to date.
- Plant to Plant - Highland Year of Culture - went very well. Progress that again to feed into growers market.
- Cycling Club - hoping to open it soon. Have 10 bicycles for the pupils to use. Still need to consider safety aspect.
- Coca-Cola Competitions - P7 pupils got through to the final but lost the game. S2 girls got through to quarter finals but lost the game and S1 & S2 boys got through to semi final but lost the game. All competitors did very well. Very please with the turnout from pupils and parents. Great development that the Sports Festival is spread out over the year, more parent involvement and more preparation time for the school. Also encourages pupils to try out different sports. More children competing than previous festivals.

## **CNES Review**

Mr Reeves reported that a meeting had taken place last week to determine the timetable for consultation. Daliburgh & Bayble Schools consultation is in January, Paible and Sgoil nan Loch in April and Lionel, Back & Shawbost in June. The consultations will take the form of public meetings where parents will be invited to attend. The Director of Education will be present, the meeting will be chair by the Chair & Vice-Chair of Education Committee and MOWG will be in attendance.

Curriculum of Excellence cannot be delivered in S1-S3 schools. 5-14 being delivered in 2 blocks for the last few years. Flexibility should allow us to deliver it. Sgoil nan Loch's roll is the biggest it has ever been.

HMI & Scottish Executive reports state that children have difficulty with the transition from nursery into P1 and S1-S2 to larger school. In larger schools this is the group that is ignored the most. The transition between primary and secondary is the most important to the pupil. The Western Isles is the only area of Scotland that has 3-14 provision. The Nicolson is not in a fit condition as a receiving school in its current state.

Rachel Wade said that her experience was a lot easier from Sgoil Nan Loch to the Nicolson compared to the pupils that went directly from P7 to the Nicolson, S1-S2 pupils are ignored by the older pupils.

Concern that all arguments are put in front of council with no hidden agenda, that it's a balanced argument.

Agreed to hold a Parent Forum meeting in January and we would value the support of the local councillors.

## **Area Meeting – Update**

Lorna reported back regarding the meeting. It was well attended by Parent Council representatives. It was a helpful meeting, issue with paperwork. It is a helpful forum and would like to see more of the Members attending. They have 2 meetings annually in May and November.

Issues discussed were:

- Parent Involvement Strategy
- Gaelic Medium Education
- Operational Issue – transportation of children on buses – behaviour/safety issue.
- Music Tuition – the free music tuition (which is over and above the school tuition) may no longer be available for free. Consultation on how parents feel about paying for this service.
- Scottish Network for Parental Involvement in Children's Learning – Annual Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The Authority has 2 places allocated, all expenses paid, if anyone wishes to attend, booking form available from Alice.

## **Correspondence**

- School Asset Management Booklet
- Minutes of Education Committee – also available on the web.

## **Any Other Competent Business**

### Assembly

Doing a nativity scene and we need help with sewing garments.

Pupils are making mince pies for Assembly, looking for parents to do some shortbread.

Mr Reeves formally invited all present to attend the Assembly on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10am.

### Flag Pole

The flag pole area has been damaged by a lorry using the entrance as a turning place. Have requested on several occasions that lorry operators refrain from doing this, but appears to be ignored.

### School Entrance

Concerns were expressed in relation to the visibility and therefore safety of the entrance to the school, particularly by car drivers from a North approach. The entrance is difficult to see, has poor lighting and requires drivers to turn right off a popular overtaking spot. Lorna is to write to Kenny MacLennan and Councillors are also asked to speak to him about it. Andrew noted that Kenny has been helpful to date on this matter.

### Logo Competition

Hope to get leaflet into school bags by the end of the week and have entrants back second week in January. Prize is an ipod.

### Midas Minibus Holders

Mairi Mackinnon offered to help as she now has her Midas Minibus certificate. Disclosure check needs to be completed for the school. All those willing to be disclosure checked to speak to Mr Reeves.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 8pm in the School. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the Burns Supper.