

SGOIL NAN LOCH PARENT COUNCIL

Notes from Meeting held on Monday 9th February 2009 at 8pm in Sgoil Nan Loch.

Present: Lorna Macaulay, Chair
Mairi Mackinnon, Vice-Chair
Alice Macleod, Clerk
Andrew Reeves, Headteacher
Fiona Macleod
Emia Macleod
Donna Macdonald
Raechelle Martin
Katie Ann Macleod
Margaret Macleod

Apologies: Ishbel Macdonald, Marion Wilson, Rev A Coghill

Lorna welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting – 27.10.08

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- School Flag – a new flag has been put up. We need to find a supplier who can provide stronger flags.
- Kerbing at flagpole has been fixed.
- Lighting at entrance – Lorna to send a letter to Kenny MacIannan to request for additional lighting, there is no lighting from before the garage to the main entrance and it is very dark.
- ‘Alice’ – Was an excellent & outstanding production. Thanks to Mairi and Emia for help in the costume department. It was a bigger undertaking than initially thought. Pupils excelled themselves.
- St Andrew’s Night – Year of Homecoming – Friday 27th November – evening of recitals, music, dancing etc. Cross-curricular approach.
- Learning Communities Meeting – Lorna & Mairi attended. Bernard Chisholm & Catriona Dunn was present. They had a ‘Bullying Awareness Session’, discussion on Curriculum for Excellence, budgets, transportation of children, YMI-Coaching. They are requesting that 2 pupils join the Learning Communities Forum.
- Co-op – Emia spoke to Wayne Fraser, Manager. We need to let them know how much we need and what is it for. Need to write to the Co-op and request support.

Financial Statement

Balance at 29.1.09 is £667.45. At the end of each term, leavers are presented with a dictionary, it was agreed that the Parent Council would fund these. Alice to contact Mary to arrange payment.

Education City - is an interactive website that children can use during class and has the option of having a homework aspect in it. Homework can be given to do and home. It costs £2 per child. Maybe we would want to consider funding this. It is available from pre-school age. Parent Council to ask if they could be contacted by the school via email. Send out short questionnaire to parents asking:

Do you have internet access?/Do you have an email address?

Staff are doing an input session tomorrow night regarding curriculum - how we teach them phonetics - 'Putting you in your child's seat'.

Glow - digital network for children and adults in Scotland. It is a securely monitored site. Sgoil nan Loch is one of two schools in the Western Isles that is pushing GLOW forward. School to get back to Parent Council to let them know if Education City is worth taking forward.

Correspondence

- Received a thank you card from Rachel Wade for the book tokens.
- Scottish Parent Teacher Council - newsletter and membership. Alice to check which membership has been already paid for.
- Council Minutes & Agendas - Alice to email Anne Maciver asking if it is possible to receive a link via e-mail instead of a paper copy.
- Occasional Holidays - to be in by 27/3/09. It would be good if the holidays could be in line with the Nicolson Institute as much as possible. Mr Reeves to send in response. Holidays - 2 in November, 3 in February and 3 in May.
- Parent Consultation Meeting - It was felt by some parents that the curriculum was overly disrupted by 'Alice' production. The preparation was channelled it on a particular day of the week, last week was very busy. Children were also encouraged to do art. Cross-curricular work was undertaken.

Open Discussion

Need to get parents involved in children's learning - get face to face with them.

Co-ordinate an evening or afternoon to see - get dialogue going. Sgoil nan Loch is an opportunity for parents to get involved.

What causes the barrier? Health & well-being - childcare and transport issues. Parent/teacher consultation is about interaction with their child. Teachers delivering

session on how pupils are taught. Pre-school & P1 should Parent Council have a presence there.

Coffee Evening - maybe show how Education City works.

Activity Day - parents encouraged to do it with their child. Ask the children how they would get parents into school to see what they are doing. Children could take the 'class' and show their parents how they learn.

Parent Council members & teachers to think of how to approach this.

We want parents to understand what and how we are doing it. 2 children's experiences will be completely different. Best chance for pupils to get full on support.

Perfect Attendance - will now be recognition of effort made throughout the year instead of perfect attendance as some children as unable to have perfect attendance due to illness, etc. More prizes for prizegiving to be sourced locally. Look at wider achievement - pupils who do things in the community outwith school time. Looking at pupils going into community and interviewing old people and recording their lives to have it on record.

School has been awarded Gold Health promoting Schools award and this was collated by Mrs Macleod and Staff.

Yellow Woods - received 'Most Improved'. Also looking to do 'Adventure Trails' to use in the summer down the side of the football pitch. Have received contributions from Co-op and local donation. Respect for School grounds.

Pupil Council - parent to sit on School Council to go with them and discuss issues. Mr Reeves to get dates.

Parent Council Meeting - 2 a term, 1 Parent Forum meeting and 1 Parent Council meeting.

Gala day - 6 June 2009.

Date of Next Meeting

Parent Forum Meeting - 27th April 2009 at 8pm.