



Minutes of Meeting

TITLE : THE NICOLSON INSTITUTE PARENT COUNCIL
DATE : Tuesday 18 November 2014 **TIME** : 5.30 pm
VENUE : Staff Room, The Nicolson Institute

DISTRIBUTION : Parent Council Members, Frances Murray for NI website and Parent Forum, Cllr Angus Campbell, Cllr Charlie Nicolson

Present: Mairi Macsween (Chairperson)(Parent Member); Hamish Budge (Vice Chairperson)(Parent Member), Mairi Mackinnon (Treasurer)(Parent Member); Calum Morrison (Parent Member); David Hanlon (Parent Member); Anna Macphail (Parent Member)
 Fiona Cunningham (Acting Rector), Cllr Charlie Nicolson
 Carol Somerville (Acting Clerk).

New Members: Fiona Miller (Parent Member) and Melissa Maclean-Smith (Parent Member).

Apologies: Rev. Graeme Craig(Parent Member); Frances Murray (Rector), Cllr Angus Campbell.

Item	Summary and Action	Who/What?	When?
1	Membership/Welcome Noted the meeting was held in the Art Classroom due to the Staff Room being unavailable. Mairi Macsween welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members Melissa Maclean-Smith and Fiona Miller. Fiona Cunningham was in attendance as Acting Rector. Cllr Charlie Nicolson opened the meeting with prayer.		
2	Approval of Previous Minute The minutes of the meeting dated 30 September 2014 were approved by Fiona Cunningham and seconded by Hamish Budge.		
3	Matters Arising GBB Parent Council Noted that no meetings of the Greater Broadbay Parent Council had been held since Donald Macleod had retired. Mairi Macsween will follow this up. Noted that Mairi Macsween had met with the Inspector from HMIE and reported thereon. Defibrillator Noted over £1,200 had been raised towards the defibrillator by the pupils and the Parent	Mairi Macsween to make enquiries about GBB Parent Council meetings.	ASAP

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	<p>Council had contributed £250. Staff are currently waiting to receive training from Heart Start prior to submitting the defibrillator for use.</p> <p>Cardiac Risk in the Young Noted, as agreed at the last meeting £250 had been donated to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), in memory of former pupil Andrew Macleod. Mairi Macsween read a thank you letter received from CRY.</p> <p>Road Crossings/Drop Off Area Copies of the draft plan showing the proposed crossings at Springfield Road/Smith Avenue junction, which was discussed at the last meeting, had been circulated to all members. Detailed discussion took place in relation to the plan. Noted CNES have stated that at present there is no funding available for these proposals and it has not been identified where the funds will come from. The NIPC members felt that it was a health and safety issue and should be a priority. The members felt the crossings were too near the junctions. It was suggested that the Chairperson write to CNES, Technical Services, expressing their concern at the plans and also requesting to see the proposed plan for the crossing at Goathill to Goathill Crescent. Also agreed to invite Calum Mackenzie, Technical Services, CNES, to the next meeting in January 2015 to discuss the plan further. Agreed if Calum Mackenzie required a response prior to the next meeting, a small group of members could meet with him. Hamish Budge stated that he would be happy to be part of this sub-group.</p> <p>Designated Drop Off Areas The NIPC requested that a Groupcall be sent out to parents/carers requesting that the designated drop off/pick up areas be used and not to be using Smith Avenue or the Sports Centre car park.</p> <p>Suggested Dates of Meetings for 2015: Agreed the following dates for meetings in 2015: 27 January 2015, 28 April 2015; 22 September 2015 (Annual Meeting) and 17 November 2015. Agreed the meetings would commence at 5.00pm. The Clerk agreed to book the staff room for the above dates.</p>	<p>Chairperson write to Calum Mackenzie, Technical Services, CNES</p> <p>Fiona Cunningham arrange for Groupcall to be sent to parents/carers re designated drop off/pick up areas</p> <p>Clerk to book staff room for 2015 dates</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>
4	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Litter Cllr Nicolson stated that litter on the main roads was becoming a problem once again. Noted it had improved with extra litter bins being provided, but was now an issue and residents had been complaining. Noted litter was also a problem in the school. The NIPC discussed the issue and suggested an incentive scheme be trialled. Agreed to issue a reward of a £5 Tesco voucher every so often to pupils seen to be using the litter bins, in order that this would encourage other pupils to use the bins. Agreed to purchase</p>	<p>Mairi Macsween to purchase Tesco vouchers and deliver them to Fiona</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

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	<p>20 x £5 vouchers to be issued over the coming weeks. Agreed to continue receiving visits from the Waste Aware Team to speak to pupils.</p> <p>Swimming Success The Chairperson congratulated the pupils attending the Highland Schools Swimming event, with pupils winning the following: Kara Hanlon 2 Gold medals; Lucy Doig 2 Gold medals; Isla Budge 1 Silver, 1 Bronze medal and Matthew Hanlon 1 Silver medal.</p> <p>NI Website/P.R. Agreed it was very useful and helpful to display the announcement sheets on the NI website. Also agreed it was good to have the Nicolson notes in the Stornoway Gazette. Cllr Nicolson stated that the NI should also use Isles FM to report stories or events. This would be available to them at no cost, the contact would be David Morrison (702002).</p>	Cunningham.	
5	<p>Rector's Report</p> <p>Fiona Cunningham reported on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Jessie Imrie, RMPS full-time teacher has retired, this post has been filled with two part-time teachers. • Mr. Beattie is currently Acting Guidance Teacher for Forbes House while Mr. Bain is Acting Depute Head. • Further adverts for teachers of Physics, Chemistry and Maths have been placed as the school had been unsuccessful in filling these posts. The Local Authority has also contacted agencies and other authorities with regard to these subjects. The NIPC discussed the issue in relation to these vacant posts, especially Chemistry and agreed to write Mr. Alasdair Allan MSP, highlighting this issue. Hamish Budge suggested referring to STEM in the letter. Noted STEM is an acronym referring to the academic disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The term is typically used when addressing education policy and curriculum choices in schools to improve competitiveness in technology development and has implications for workforce development. Discussed utilising the Council's Economic Development Department to encourage prospective teachers. Fiona Cunningham stated that it was hoped to get a probationer Chemistry teacher next year. Cllr Nicolson stated that we should look at contracts being available to the probationers after their probationer year is complete. Noted that the current classes are being covered by specialist teachers. • A Home Economics assistant has been appointed on a temporary contract and will take up duties on 20 November 2014. • S4 reports currently being completed and will be issued shortly. • S3 Parents Evening was held recently. • S4 pupils have recently had a target setting week which should help them to focus on their next steps. • A programme of Learning Journals is currently under way, there has been one 	Chairperson to write to Mr. Alasdair Allan, MSP.	ASAP

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	<p>looking in detail at the BGE (Broader General Education) and the Learning Wall and another on strengthening the Gaelic ethos in the school. Further sessions are planned on Leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Inset days in October proved useful for staff in implementing and preparing the new Higher courses. Several staff have participated in SQA events to ensure there is clarity regarding assessments and understanding standards. • A French trip to Glasgow for S3 pupils is planned for January 2015 where the pupils will participate in various activities. • The Biology Department are currently planning a field trip for S3 pupils to assist them with their course work. • The S3 Life Skills Class recently organised and delivered a ceilidh and tea party as part of their course. • Anti-Bullying week was highlighted with special assemblies for S1-S3 . • Prelims for S4-S6 will begin on 26 January 2015 until 06 February 2015. • S3 had a presentation on Young Apprenticeship as part of Modern Apprenticeship Week. This included highlighting successful local businesses and opportunities. • Andrew Duncan S6 has been named Lewis & Harris Sport Council's Young Coach of the Year, he has been coaching football to 5-12 year olds. • Chris Sherrington, Gold medallist in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, visited the school last week to talk to pupils and to demonstrate the sport of judo. • Alasdair Marnoch S6 has been chosen as an ambassador for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO). A total of 32 Ambassadors were appointed, one to represent each local authority in Scotland. Alasdair plays the violin. • S1 Tutor Group pupils who are working on their own documentary film about the work of the St. Jerome orphanage in Nakuru, Kenya, were inspired following the visit of Film Director Calum Angus Mackay of Mast-Ard Studio, who had recently been filming in Kenya at the orphanage and he showed the pupils pictures and shared his experiences from his visit. • The school experienced a high level of success at the Royal National Mod with many gold medal winners. Trophies are on display in the foyer. • The BT Alba Debate semi-final takes place in Edinburgh next week with two teams from the NI in the semi-final. • There is a debating tournament in the Assembly Hall tonight with speakers from the Senior Debating Society who are preparing for a national competition. <p>Mairi Macsween thanked Fiona Cunningham for her detailed report.</p>		
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.10pm. The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 5.00pm in the Staff Room Noted it was necessary for the Clerk to book the Staff Room through Linda Macmillan in the School Office.</p>	Clerk to book Staff Room for next meeting.	Staff room booked.