



Minutes of Meeting

TITLE : THE NICOLSON INSTITUTE PARENT COUNCIL
DATE : Tuesday 22nd September 2015 **TIME** : 5.00 pm
VENUE : Staff Room, The Nicolson Institute

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

Present: Mairi Macsween (Chairperson)(Parent Member); Mairi Mackinnon (Treasurer)(Parent Member); Graeme Craig (Parent Member); Calum Morrison (Parent Member); David Hanlon (Parent Member); Frances Murray (Rector); Cllr Charlie Nicolson
 Fiona Miller (Acting Clerk).

Apologies: Melissa Maclean-Smith, Iain Norma Morrison

Item	Summary and Action	Who/What?	When?
1	Welcome/Apologies Mairi Macsween welcomed everyone to the meeting, Charlie Nicolson opened the meeting with prayer. Apologies were received from Melissa Maclean-Smith & Iain Norman Morrison		
2	Approval of Previous Minute Approval of the minutes of the meeting dated 28th April 2015 was proposed by Frances Murray and seconded by Charlie Nicolson.		
3	Matters Arising Road Crossings Mairi Macsween informed members that there are now dropped kerbs at Smith avenue and Springfield Rd. The Technical Dept. is also planning to paint children crossing on the roads to try and promote safety. There are no plans to make any further changes to road crossings once this is complete. Frances Murray felt that changes to pupil management are having an impact. When the term started, they held assemblies and told the children that they were not to cross the Bus Park. David Smart is also proposing that they make laminated signs for the buses. Friday is the best day but it was recognised that many of the children are walking home before the buses arrive so it is less busy. Small changes appear to be having a good effect.	Agreed that this matter would be looked at again in six months.	Feb 2016

Item	Summary and Action	Who/What?	When?
4	<p>Greater Broadbay (GBB) Parent Council meeting 19th of May.</p> <p>Litter Frances Murray reported that the litter situation has improved and people are noticing this. The School have introduced a new Policy as part of the School Improvement Plan and there is now a complete ban on chewing gum while no food or drink is to be consumed in the corridors. The FES Cleaners and janitors are pleased with the progress and there are also volunteers for litter duty. Charlie Nicolson reported that the residents of Goathill & Springfield were also giving him positive feedback.</p> <p>Mairi Macsween had attended this but she was the only parent council representative. Alan Smithyman is now being replaced by Donald MacLeod. They meet twice a year and it is an opportunity to raise issues with the Education Dept. Calum Morrison raised the issue that here was no similar event on the West side of the island now that the schools all feed into the Nicolson Institute. Mairi Macsween said that she would raise this with Donald MacLeod.</p>	Mairi MacSween	

Item	Summary and Action	Who/What?	When?
5	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>Carol Somerville prepared the Annual Report 2014/2015 and the Report was reviewed by the Parent Council who has contributed to the prize giving.</p>		
6	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>The Financial report was prepared by the treasurer Mairi MacKinnon. There was nothing extraordinary to note and there was a balance of £4,484.84 at 30/6/15. Discussion followed on how the money should be spent. One idea was for a mini bus or funds to help with travel to the mainland for children competing away. It was agreed that it was not perhaps worthwhile to fund a mini bus as the school can get easy access to one on the mainland. It was agreed to put this idea on hold for the moment but to look at funding travel in the future.</p> <p>The following payments were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To donate £250 to Cry, the Heart Screening Organisation, Andrew Macleod Memorial Fund. There were 220 young people screened in the school and some abnormalities were picked up on. 	<p>Parent Council to decide on whether there should be a travel fund for children competing on the mainland</p> <p>Mairi Mackinnon</p>	<p>Nov. 2016</p>
7	<p>Rector's Report</p> <p>Frances Murray reported on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a good transition into the new school year • Bethesda coffee morning is on Friday 25th September – agreed that Parent Council will donate £100 to this event • There is a Careers Event on Tuesday 6th October at the Nicolson where Universities and Colleges will attend to provide advice from pupils – more information from Christine Munro at SDS • There is now an SDS office at the Nicolson where Charlie Stewart and Christine Munro are based • There are two new staff members at the school: Mairi Mackenzie (Chemistry) and Felix Keral (Maths). The Maths department is now fully staffed • A new English teacher, Alison Macdonald, will start after the October holidays • There are still three teaching vacancies in the Science department despite national advertising • The new UHI post-graduate course has resulted in five student teachers on placement at the Nicolson – these students are able to teach in Gaelic and English • Four pupils were selected for the North of Scotland Schools Football Select • Fifty pupils are currently doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award at the school and more parent volunteers are needed. Donna Macmillan is delivering DOE one day a week and WIDEA is looking to apply for LEADER funding later in the year in order to fund Donna's post, currently funded by Community Education. 	<p>Mairi Mackinnon</p>	

Item		Summary and Action	Who/What?	When?
10	Selection of New Parent Council and Office Bearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Charity Challenge event took place and was successful • Pupils participated in DS Murray's play in partnership with Proiseact Nan Eilean • The Nicolson Facebook page is now fully operational and regularly updated • There are new rules in the PE Department – information available to parents if requested • A drumming project has received £10,000 from the National Lottery • The National Youth Orchestra visited and performed at the school • Condolences were passed to the families of former rector Donald Macdonald, former PT Art, Gordon Paterson and former PT Classics Calum Macleod <p>Mairi Macsween thanked Frances Murray for her detailed report.</p> <p>A new parent council was elected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Mairi Macsween –proposed by Frances Murray, seconded by Charlie Nicolson • Vice-chair – Hamish Budge - proposed by Mairi Macsween, seconded by Calum Morrison • Treasurer – Mairi Mackinnon – proposed by Mairi Macsween, seconded by Charlie Nicolson • Clerk – Fiona Miller appointed <p>Carol Somerville's retirement as clerk to be marked with a gift Donna Smith to be informed of the new parent council</p>	Mairi Macsween Fiona Miller	Asap Asap
11	AOCB	<p>Graeme Craig raised an issue re parents complaining to him about the language used by teachers in the school – Frances said she hoped that any parent would approach her direct if they had any concerns</p> <p>The 'Friends of the Nicolson' group will be launched in December 2015</p> <p>Charlie Nicolson raised the possibility of presenting an 'International Citizenship' award to recognise the achievements of young people working abroad – this was agreed</p>		
12	Date of next meeting	<p>Next meeting will be at 5.00pm for 5.15pm on the 17th November 2015 in the staff room at the Nicolson Institute</p>		