

Glen Urquhart High School Parent Council

21 January 2015

In Attendance:	PM	Paul Milton	Head Teacher
	SK	Sodi Kakouris	Chairperson
	LI	Lesley Inglis	Treasurer
	MW	Morag Watson	Secretary
	EC	Emma Cooper	
	PC	Paula Cooper	

Not Present:

Morag Fraser
Karen Hookham
Laura Quinn
Roni Smith
Laurina Stobo

In Attendance	CM	Carol Masheter	Soirbheas
	BK	Bobby Kakouris	S6
	MM	Mairi Murchison	S6

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Morag Fraser, Karen Hookham, Laura Quinn and Laurina Stobo.

SK welcomed Carol Masheter, Community Development Officer, Soirbheas, to the meeting for agenda item 2 and Bobby Kakouris and Mairi Murchison for item 3.

2 Funding via Soirbheas for Extra-curricular Activities

CM spoke of funding opportunities available through Soirbheas, a community charity largely funded through income from a turbine at Corrimony Wind Farm. Funding was coming on stream with Tier 1 grants (up to £500) available on a rolling application process as long as funds permitted, up to 2 applications per financial year, and Tier 2 grants (up to £10,000) available periodically, up to 1 application per financial year. Funds are not yet available for Tier 3 grants (over £10,000). She encouraged all to take up membership as this puts Soirbheas in a stronger position.

Awards are for community benefit and whilst funding levels are low the Parent Council would be appropriate recipients for funding, in the future the school may be able to apply for funding for projects which are not part of statutory provisions. Soirbheas would be unlikely to fund the same project year on year as this would not meet their funding objective guidelines.

In addition to providing funding CM is able to guide groups towards other suitable sources of funding, with an online list which updates weekly.

CM spoke of the Potato Project, a scheme to encourage people to grow food locally, using tubers provided free to schools, which could provide teaching and fund raising opportunities. She would send PM further details on the scheme for review.

A further project was the creation of focus groups for creative

consultation with the elderly or the young to look at their needs, which might cover issues like transport or youth training.

In relation to our application for funding towards the S3 Outdoor Education trip, our application had been held over to the February meeting pending provision of evidence of cost and clarification on how the money will be spent or distributed, e.g. will it reduce the parental contribution or serve some other purpose. It was noted that Badaguish was no longer available and an alternative location had been found, but at a higher cost. Rosemary Woodhouse was liaising with CM to provide the information required and it was hoped that an award of just under £5,000 would be approved in February.

RW

3 Pupil Leavers' Event and Fundraising

LI noted that, having raised £400.20 from the Christmas raffle, the Leavers' funds now stood at £658.30. This was a slight increase on the amount raised last year. Parent Council would decide how much to add to fund the meal and such costs as invitations, postage, medals and vouchers for helpers.

PM

The Leavers would like their event to be a meal at the Loch Ness Inn and a day out as a group. School may be able to fund the day out, depending on cost. BK and MM were asked to canvas pupils on what they wanted to do for their day out. They should also check prices and consider table layout and style of meal. Weather permitting they could perhaps use the courtyard as a setting for medal presentations. BK and MM will liaise with the Loch Ness Inn and let LI have further details.

BK/MM
LI

4 Minutes of Meeting of 6 November 2014

The minutes were accepted as correct.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Item 4.4 – Parent Council Chair Meeting

SK and PC had attended a Parent Council Chair meeting at Charleston Academy. The majority of attendees had been from Primary School Parent Councils and were more highly involved in curricular matters than fundraising, so perhaps had a more political interest. Nonetheless, it covered some useful topics on the working of parent councils and SK came away feeling that our parent council set-up was appropriate for our school and pupils.

6 Correspondence

There was no correspondence. A response to The Highland Council Budget Consultant had been made. PM believed that the responses received had made some impact.

7 Head Teacher's Report

7.1 Careers Fair

The Careers Fair had been very successful and well attended, including the younger pupils. It would be repeated next year.

7.2 Back to the Future

Performances over 3 nights had been very good and thanks went to Mr Hay for his involvement. A new format will be considered to get

more children involved and make it a more hands-on and interdisciplinary event.

LI suggested that in future the Parent Council do something by way of thanks. Pupils already have a small last night party, bound by time constraints and parents waiting, but perhaps we could contribute towards their juice and crisps.

7.3 Musical Evening

The musical afternoon put on for senior citizens was repeated in the evening for parents and guests. This went down very well, bringing a variety of children to the fore and welcoming different parents to the school.

7.4 Charity

- £540 had been raised for Children in Need;
- 19 Blythswood Christmas Boxes collected by the Asdan group;
- £141 raised by the Asdan group through sale of poppies;
- £182 raised on Christmas Jumper day.

Pupils would decide how the money raised by Christmas Jumpers would be spent, with a link to a school in Asia under consideration.

7.5 Curriculum

7.5.1 The Wood Report calls for vocational training to be improved and to this end GUHS offer Skills for Work courses which will include a course on Travel and Tourism from next year. This will be taken by Rachel Weir, Business Studies.

7.5.2 In 3rd Year pupils generally obtain their choice of subjects, though not always in the grouping of Practical Woodwork/German/French. The possibility of adding PE into this mix was under consideration along with any consequent effects to timetabling. Any changes implemented would be in place for next academic year.

7.6 S3 Trip to Badaguish Outdoor Centre

Badaguish had closed down so Rosemary Woodhouse had found an alternative, but more expensive, location in Fort Augustus. The change in location also meant a change in date as the trip would come forward a week, therefore the senior timetable would start a week earlier.

Cost to parents was usually around £180 per pupil. It was hoped that funding from Soirbheas would negate the price rise this year. However, to keep it at this level in future years may need a big fund raising event or alternative funding source. PM felt it was worth keeping going despite more funding being required, as the staff momentum and expectation were in place and could be hard to rebuild if the event stopped for a period.

7.7 Ballet

Sixty five pupils were due to attend The Nutcracker at Eden Court tomorrow evening. This event was funded by the school with a £5 pupil contribution towards transport.

7.8 Budget

The Highland Council would not be implementing a 1% cut across staffing; however there may still be an effect as there will be a Physics

and Geography post coming up which may be filled by a compulsory transfer due to cuts elsewhere. PM was not worried by this possibility.

The Physics post would be advertised and Andrew Hay's position as Acting Principal Teacher (Creative and Aesthetic Arts) would be advertised as permanent.

7.9 Website

The website host had to be changed and Andrew Hay was in the midst of sorting out links to ensure everything worked.

7.10 Easter Run

The Easter Run would take place on 2nd April, time to be confirmed. Route would be round the park, up Balmacaan Road, along Balmacaan track and back to school.

EC would buy and hand out Creme eggs to pupils as they finished; SK would hand out bigger eggs to 1st, 2nd and 3rd junior and senior winners. Eggs would be funded by the Parent Council. LI would check with Ann Smart for details of previous purchases but we should need 215 small eggs and 6 bigger eggs.

EC/SK

LI

8 Treasurer's Report

LI presented the Treasurer's Report which showed takings of £400 from the Leavers Raffle and £120 from Baxters, giving a bank total of £2861.28; with £29 cash following takings from, and expenses incurred for, tea and quiz sheet at the Musical Evening. Significant spends still due were Leavers' Do and Easter eggs; a contribution was usually made to fund a meal for those returning from the overseas trip but this may be diverted to provide additional funds for the S3 Outdoors trip, if required.

The quiz sheet at the Musical Evening had not been pushed so had not raised much. Two entries had been returned; both on equal scoring due to a discrepancy in acceptable answers to one question, Parent Council agreed the prize should go to Sylvia Longbottom, having provided the name of the original artist. EC would pass the £10 prize to Sylvia and her name would appear in the next Newsletter.

EC
PM

Thanks were due to Amanda Graham, who kindly donated tea, coffee, milk and biscuits.

LI would check with Jane Strachan whether our application for a Council grant had been submitted or money received.

LI

9 Departmental Bids

PM indicated that he had some school budget remaining (equating to 0.4 of a teacher's salary) and was encouraging departments to come to him with any requirements, as if the budget remains unused the Council may remove it. He suggested that our Departmental bid budget be diverted to funding future S3 Outdoor Activity trips as his surplus cannot be used for that purpose.

10 Events

10.1 Film Theme Night Update

Mama Mia would be shown on Friday 20th February in the Craigmonie Theatre. The film would start at 7.30pm, with helpers arriving from

All

6.30pm to set up catering. The Pupil Council should be asked if they could help on the night. MW would finalise the booking with Fran Davidson. SK would arrange to try the kit beforehand.

MW
SK

BK and MM would publicise through Assembly next week and make posters for display around school and village and fliers to issue to primary and high school pupils. LI will forward information to Fran Davidson to publicise through Nesslink. We must target the community as a whole to ensure the event is a financial success.

BK/MM

LI

Tickets would be £2 per person and further funds would be raised through a Lucky Bucket (£1 to put your name in the bucket, if your name is picked you get half the takings) and through catering.

SK would collect cans of juice and KH would arrange to get popcorn etc.. BK and MM would check with the canteen where they get their popcorn from.

SK/KH
BK/MM

Should the film night prove successful we should aim to run another around Easter time, choosing from good popular films as well as sing-a-longs, perhaps also consider having a Saturday matinee for children. It was unlikely that new films would be shown as these need a licence from the Distributor.

11 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Thursday 30 April 2015. PM will book meeting room.

PM

Future meetings will be held:

All note

- 7pm Thursday 30 April 2015
- 7pm Tuesday 9 June 2015
- 7pm Wednesday 16 September 2015 – AGM