

COMHAIRLE NAM PARANT / PARENT COUNCIL
SGOIL GHAIHDLIG GLASCHU / GLASGOW GAELIC SCHOOL
COINNEAMH / MEETINGS

28mh AM FAOILLEACH 2016 / 28TH JANUARY 2016

MINUTES

Present: Douglas Morrison (DM), Bruce White (BW), Joanne Bowman (JB), Iain McKinnon (IMacK), Fiona MacIntyre (FMaCl), Donalda McComb (DMcC), Nellie MacIntyre (NMaCl), Catriona Campbell (CC), Rona MacDonald (RMacD), Madeleine Darling (MD), Carrie Freedman (CF), Nasib Kezaala (NK), Elaine MacLeod (EMacL), Sara Macdonald (SMacd), Aileen Scott (AS), David Sutherland (DS), Deirdre O'Henley (DO'H), Nicola Graham (NG), Gillian Clive (GC) (from BGGD PC), Paul Liddel (PL), Fiona Carter (FC), Ilse Alim (IA), Leticia Rosa (LR), Eilidh Macdonald (EMacd), Marie Craig (MC).

Apologies: Siobhan Campbell

1. Welcome

DM welcomed everyone to our first Parent Council Meeting of 2016 and thanked everyone for attending this evening. He advised that we had a lot of issues to get through this evening and he was also aware that we only had access to the Library till 8pm.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

DM advised that the Gaelic Panto was a huge success and came in cheaper than expected and the bill has now been paid.

DM advised a letter has been drafted and sent out to the applicant in regards to the Legacy funding.

DMcC wanted it noted that the previous minutes dated 26/11/15, should have read P1 enrolment requests rather than placing requests. This has now been updated.

Report from PE dept still outstanding for complete minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes from 26/11/15 have been agreed.

3. Headteacher's Report

3.1 National Improvement Framework has been set up and a flyer has been shared with the young people in Ard-Sgoil and this will be followed up with the Bun Sgoil in the future. It outlines 6 priorities including the role of the authority, school, leadership, and professionalism of staff, parents and the government. DMcC suggested this is ongoing that it could be discussed at future PC meeting.

3.2 National Parent Forum leaflets were distributed home to parents last week and is aimed at 3 – 18 years old. It discusses career choice education and identifies the different supports currently in place and other areas of priority.

3.3 Staffing – At the last meeting the Bunscoil still required 1.4 FTE teachers. The situation had improved with the school managing to find an English speaking teacher for 0.6FTE.

3.4 SGG are hosting an Exhibition from the Holocaust Trust called “Gathering the Voices” in the library. There will be a guest speaker coming from the Holocaust Trust to talk to all pupils in the Secondary at all assemblies next week. DMcC advised if there was room, she would like to offer this to parents also.

3.5 P7 Enterprise Project – Cultural Concert – is taking place tomorrow – expecting many parents to attend.

3.6 Choir – there was a meeting with the Choir this evening and due to overwhelmed demand for a school choir, it has been decided, due to costs, time, dedication, etc that for the Stornoway Mod this year only that P5,P6,P7 would take part although there may be siblings attending who could be involved also. All this support and work will be when the Mod comes to Glasgow in 2109.

3.7 P7 Lochgoilhead trip – normally in April and a meeting to follow

3.8 S4/S5/S6 have just completed their Prelims and DMcC wanted it noted that everything ran smoothly. Hopefully, whilst tracking them and supported study that couldn't be done without the dedication of the staff who work out with their contractual requirements to ensure the pupils are prepared for their exams.

3.9 Gaelic Reader Launch – this was launched last week and is an ICT based tool called Heather or Stuart (instead of the American voice) and Katie for the Ghaidhlig version. Due to constraints within SQA exams, some exams are literacy based and means that those requiring assistance cannot use a reader but can use an ICT based help.

It's hoped this tool can be used to help with proof reading work as well as helping other pupils. CC advised that she is going to make all pupils aware of this tool as it's not just to be used for exams etc.

3.10 Sports and Music Achievements

The nominations for Sports School of the Year have been released and we have not been successful this year.

S1 and S2 took part and swept the boards in a Giant Heptathlon competition against 22 other schools. It was also noted that our competitiveness and encouragement and all round behaviour was great. Staff from the other school commended the pupils and the teachers on this. Congratulations to them all.

Celtic Radio Showcase – 1 of a group of pupils have got through to the next round.

BAE Systems competition – this encourages the pupils to create a robot, boat etc. 10 pupils are taking part on a Friday afternoon.

Alison – Youth Development Officer continues to develop a programme at the school. It was noted that the focus was on S1-S3 and she has now to develop opportunities in the Senior Phase.

S2 – Speech Making Competition – 2 groups took part and 1 group got through to the next stage.

4. P1 Intake

DM has advised that there is a lot going on between social media and the news. DM advised that he has read representation from both sides of the issue. DM has arranged a meeting with Executive Director Of Education and David Robb from BGGD Parent Council. Discussion followed covering a range of issues to take to the Executive Director of Education.

5. Guidance on Gaelic Education (BnG Consultation)

The guidance notes suggests that if 5 families or more in an area express an interest in Ghaidhlig, they can request a consultation.

The full consultation will be out the next few weeks and DM suggested that all parents look at it and express their comments.

RMacd asked if we as a Parent Council would be approaching them and responding to the consultation.

DM replied that we should respond as a Parent Council if there are issues that arise.

Individuals may also be free to respond to the proposed guidance.

6. Spors

Due to time constraints, BW advised of the following information:-

6.1 A parent is really keen to start up a P1 football coaching extending to P3 hopefully on a Wednesday evening. However, John is unable to do run this alone and requires volunteers to help take children to the toilet, check kids in and out and anyone wishing to do so will require a PVG but this can be organised at the time.

6.2 EMacL advised at a previous meeting that there is a 2km park run every Sunday morning at Victoria Park and this is free and for children 4 upwards. The hope is in the better weather, to get a pilot group from the school involved with bibs, etc.

6.3 Facilities – Although we have the 3g pitch, indoor sports facilities. A dance studio and a new sports surface will be put in the Canteen over the school holidays. The assembly hall is not ideal for sports as is used for numerous other things and means that the equipment has to be stored and pulled out and put back each time. BW has made a case to local councillors and Nina Baker visited the school this week to discuss the sports facilities. Also BW organised to meet with Eva Bolton who has a surgery in the school on 4/2/16 @ 11am and is looking for someone to go along and discuss the issues with her. Alison Thewliss a local MP, as had a response from Maureen McKenna and was advised that she has budget constraints and that we would need to make a case for the school. We need to get the local community engaged in the idea as well. DM is looking for volunteers and IMack offered to get involved to help write letters to local people and developing links with the school.

7. Communications

We discussed in the previous meeting to try and engage with potential parents to the school and let them know what GME is about – hope to try and develop a video and this will be a discuss for a future meeting. PL suggested that we use South West Arts Media who use the school on a Monday evening and see if they can provide a video to be used at open days and such like.

DM is looking for a volunteer with artistic flair and time on their hands to develop a newsletter from the Parent Council to show what goes on in the school and the successes that we have within the school.

8. AOCB

DMcC advised that the secondary school will be 10 years in September and are looking at ways to commemorate this.