

## COMHAIRLE NAM PARANT / PARENT COUNCIL

### SGOIL GHaidhlig GLASCHU / GLASGOW GAELIC SCHOOL

#### MIONADEAN / MINUTES

28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 @ 6.30PM

**Present:** Bruce Whyte (BW), Johanne Bowman (JB), Catriona Campbell (CC), Fiona MacIntyre (FMacI), Deirdre O'Henley (DO'H), Iain MacKinnon (IMacK), Pamela Graham (PG), Elaine MacLeod (EMacL), Siobhan Campbell (SC), Douglas Morrison (DM), Fiona Carter (FC), Nellie MacIntyre (NMacI) and Donalda McComb (DMcC).

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

DM welcomed all to the Parent Council and apologies were received from Sara McDonald.

#### 2. Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting

World Book Day – to seek more parental involvement and increase literacy – **future meeting**

A parent with knowledge of public address (PA) systems has offered to look at our PA system and DM asked if we would agree to form an application for the Legacy funds if replacement equipment was needed.

It was agreed to postpone the invite to the HR Manager for Secondary discussion at present whilst GCC carry out city-wide review of the GME provision – **Item Postponed at present.**

GIRFEC co-ordinator – for parents to get involved in future/online options – **future meeting.**

Otherwise no further updates and the minutes were agreed by all.

#### 3. Headteachers Report

##### Ard Sgoil

Advert for Technical and Science Teacher 0.4 FTE to be advertised on myjobscotland website.

Home Economics filled through authority recruitment. We now have a Gaelic speaker.

S1 pupil intake is 55 pupils

S3 assessments are underway.

S4, S5 and S6 will commence exam leave from next week and CC confirmed that all the young people should be well prepared as all of them were issued with an exam pamphlet (SQA printed them in Ghaidhlig too) and both English and Ghaidhlig pamphlets were given out to them.

##### Events

Also drop in sessions between staff and pupils are in place. Over the Easter holidays, teaching staff gave up a couple of day's holiday to offer supported study to the young people.

The Netball girls had a successful trip to Paris and placed in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thanks goes to all the teachers, pupils and parents and the company who arranged the trip in light of recent terrorist actions. They were very helpful with all concerns.

There is a trip to Belgium to visit War Graves from 2/5/16 – 6/5/16 and again the company this is arranged with have been equally helpful with all concerns in light of the terrorist actions.

S3 – Youth Philanthropy Initiative – is getting the pupils to work together and volunteer to work with a charity and the winning team will award the charity with £3000. This has been a great way for pupils to work with the wider community and DMcC confirmed that it would be unlikely that this funding would be available next year. DMcC to advised at the in-service day on Thursday 05/05/16, that Craig Vickery will be coming along to discuss skills for learning and she has asked staff members to think about how we can use Craig Vickery and the company he is part of in helping the young people.

### **Bun Sgoil**

P1 intake for this year is 92 pupils, with a total of 18 classes, with 1 General Purpose room and 1 ICT room.

Both P1 and S1 inductions will happen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016. Maggie Wentworth for Comann nam Pàrant will be there too.

DO'H asked if there could something extra to keep the motivation of parents of children to keep engaged in Gàidhlig learning in older classes like P3/P5? No clear answer to this. DM suggested getting parents more involved in school/social environment. Would Alison be able to help in anyway? Parent friendly ideas with GME in its centre.

### School Events

P7s are heading to Lochgilphead soon.

Feis Drama was a huge success last night (27/04/16) with 6 GME schools taking part and led to a lovely evening for all. Money raised from ticket sales, raffles are used to keep the event going year on year. JB, FMacI and DM wanted to express their thanks to Mr Murray's for all his hard work on this. DM asked if maybe a small cup could be offered to the winners but DMcC confirmed that this was always a nice evening without the competitiveness.

Bun Sgoil ceilidh held for p1 – p4, was again successful and is used to promote traditional Ghaidhlig songs and language. The Sgoil Araich and P1 Ceilidh will take place in June. Monies raised will go to resources and charity.

DM suggested that parents think about how we can work together between SGG and Bun Sgoil Glendale. Do we organise occasional joint meetings or joint events for the school communities? DM will talk to David Robb about possibilities.

The EU referendum on Thurs 23/06/16 will mean that all Glasgow schools will be closed on that day, however the final day for the school term will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm.

SGG was ranked second in Scotland in recently published Herald league tables. This an achievement the whole school community should be proud of. DMcC advised that she has received many emails and notes of appreciation passed to her congratulating the school on its results.

DM wanted to express congratulations on behalf of all parents towards all the teachers, support staff, pupils and parent themselves for their hard work in achieving this.

#### **4. Anti-bullying Workshop**

JB, DO'H and SMcD attended this workshop in January 2016, and FMacI will be attending next Wednesday 04/05/16.

Schools in other areas of Glasgow have different approaches of how to tackle different aspects. JB advised bullying is an interest to parents until it happens to their child and it could lead to spilling over to outside school as such the bus, online etc.

JB advised it's not about using the word bully and labelling a child but how to alter the behaviour behind the issue. DM asks how we access this information as a parent. Should this be something that should be added to the school website? How does the school tackle this behaviour and how parents react? DM asked JB to contact the "respectme" website and see if they can come to the school to discuss further with parents? –

**ACTION: JB to contact respect FMacI and update**

DMcC has reiterated to staff and equally to pupils about their concerns about cyber bullying and Police Scotland have visited and spoke to the pupils as well.

SC is concerned about childhood anxiety in p7/S1 particularly. Is there a system or person in place so that if any child has an issue they can come in an anonymous way? NMacI advised that older pupils in the primary have "bubble time" and can have time to speak to a teacher about concerns. CC has assemblies and pupils discuss big news items as they occur and if she is approached by individual pupils too. Part of GIRFEC should alleviate some of these issues. DMcC would like to discuss self-harming at a future meeting, as part of a health study carried out and its statistics and many other issues concerning pupils.

NMacI confirmed that there are post boxes around school where pupils can ask for help or pass on thoughts and there other opportunities available through circle time, etc.

SC asked if there is a school nurse in SGG – DMcC confirmed there was not.

FC advised that there are could be other outlets such has digital post boxes?

DM asked how do other schools deal with this?

#### **5. Financial Reporting of PC Funds**

DM advised that we should be more open about the amount of money we have and the sub groups. DM suggested the less intrusive way, would be to request a year of end statement and he will contact the fundraising group and the music sub group to supply this. JB offered to create the report as long as she is supplied the information. -

**ACTION: DM to contact treasurer's for statements**

It would be beneficial to share with the Parent Forum how funds raised for the School are used to engage Parent's in fundraising and to highlight the tangible returns to the School community.

## **6. Spors**

There has been a request for financial support for Shinty. They are going on tour to promote the school and are looking for some funding to the total of £1070.00. DM and DMcC agreed that the fundraising group and the Parent Council will fund it equally between them.

### Update on Sports Facilities

BW met with Councillor Bolander in relation to the Red Blaes pitch and possible future use by the school during the school day and by the community out-with these times. The Councillor advised there isn't any money, but realised that this was a long term goal and is willing to do a comparative study of sports facilities across other secondary schools in Glasgow and she will come back to us with her findings. She advised one approach would be to petition parents for the issue of sports facilities and leave out GME at present. If we get at least 25 signatures then, GCC have to at least look into. Councillor Bolander offered to come to a future PC meeting in June to discuss.

CC asks that she recognises that we are unique as we are offering facilities for 3 – 18 years old?

SC asked if she thought the community would be behind the pitch being developed?

DM suggested that there may be some debate ahead due to the renovation of the Kelvinhall and its proximity to the School.

PC to invite Baillie Bolander to the next meeting and DM suggested to ear mark a 30 minute meeting before the main one.

**ACTION: BW to contact Bailie Bolander to ask if she would have the information about other facilities across the city by then and if not to postpone her till she has this information.**

### Spors Events

Feis Spors will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and flyers have been sent out advertising the event. EMacL advised that they would require volunteers on the day and possible donations for a raffle.

CC advised that Ceol is Craic – music groups may clash date wise in the evening.

BW advised that there is a cycle path that leads more or less door to door from SGG to Glendale and maybe bike ability could be involved in getting us involved with each other.

## **7. Communications**

Sgoil Araich (FC) advised that sometime getting information from parents and back out gets lost and asked what communication we have in place. DMcC advised that the school use text messaging to parents, twitter, and facebook although she is contemplating have an official facebook page for the school with only access to parents and moderated by the school.

DM wanted help bringing a newsletter together for what the PC do and our accomplishments so far. CC advised that she publishes a De tha Dol newsletter on a weekly basis for Ard sgoil.

**ACTION: DM and FC will look into together and try to bring a newsletter together.**

## **8. AOCB**

IMacK asks for £50 to support the P7 party – agreed.

Parental offer from Karen to run a Code club as an afterschool activity for 1 hour a week aimed at 9-11 years old. A teacher would be required to stay and supervise. Although we agreed, DMcC will need to check if any teacher would be interested.

20 minute walk/run for each pupil – to be considered in the school day - this runs in other school at present.

Local Mod – role and responsibilities – SC asked if all pupils could learn the poem/song rather than taking the specific children taking part and allowing all the children an opportunity to learn them. NMacl agreed that this should happen.

DMcC confirmed that lack of information in the past as led to confusion to whom is running the event and asked if flyers should go out to all primary classes advising of this information.

The Royal National Mod will be in Stornoway this year and due to logistics, money and age of some children, it was decided that DMcC and Mrs Sproat will take the minibus and the older children with some parents to Stornoway. DMcC would like to thank Alison Buchanan and Iseabail McTaggart for all their hard work.

CC confirmed that in the next few years, the logistics shouldn't be as bad – Lochaber 2017, Dunoon 2018 and Glasgow 2019.

### **Cordia Food /Canteen Segregation**

There has been a city wide issue with Cordia food and as such a new menu has been developed although they are working within tight budgets.

DMcC confirmed that due to the high footfall in the canteen at lunch time, that yes children with packed lunch, eat separately due to lack of space and the older pupils coming in later.

Comann nam Parant Ghlaschu are having there AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> May 16 @ 6.30 in SGG.