

Present: Beth Mowatt (Dippen); Debra Robertson (Blackwaterfoot); Ruth Betley (Torbeg); Alison Richards (Lochranza); Janine Hart (Brodick); Tricia Jenkins (Brodick) – Chair; Robin Jenks (Community Representative).

In attendance: Mrs Gregg (Acting Head Teacher); Kate Jenks (clerk)

1. Apologies: Gordon Provan (W/Bay); Ishbel Gordon (W/Bay); Jane Macbeth (Teacher representative); Mr Fyfe (Depute Head). TJ also advised that Andrew Walsh has tendered his resignation but, as Treasurer, will continue to administer the accounts until a new Treasurer is appointed.
2. Minutes of meeting 17th March 2014 agreed – proposed: BM seconded: JH
3. Matters arising: will also
 - 3.1 Leavers 'DO' – TJ advised that this has been booked for 'Arran on a Plate'.
 - 3.2 Out of School Sports Co-ordinator – an email from Bobby McGhee indicated that a full time co-ordinator could not be appointed until a full service review has been completed. Meanwhile part time sessional workers are being employed: Sally Hunter and Archie McNicol will co-ordinate the Inter School Swimming Gala; CLIC Sergeant Football and Commonwealth based Sports activities. They will help with a Sports Day for which the PE teachers will run 'Heats'. Sally and Archie have a meeting on Monday and have sports for girls on the agenda. Also – Calum McNicol will be employed, on a similar basis, to run 'Outdoor Activities'. Their job is to arrange training so that activity can be sustainable – it is not their prime purpose to deliver the activities. It is hoped that Carole Johnson will also be enabled to finish her course so that she can teach gymnastics.
TJ felt that this was a positive development.
 - 3.3 Options booklet – this went out and the Options evening was held. Some alterations were made to the timetable e.g. to accommodate pupils who wished to do both Physics and Graph. Comm. Teaching staff have also been flexible so that some pupils can undertake 'Crash' Highers
 - 3.4 Head Teacher Appointment Process update – The package on offer has been revised, with an increased salary offered and an extension to the length of time accommodation would be offered. TJ, BM and Ann McKay (Lamlash Primary PC Chair) will meet with Stephen Quinn next Tuesday to shortlist the candidates. This will be followed by an assessment

centre with a school visit by candidates (possibly on 28th May) and the interviews on Friday 30th May.

3.5 Programme for use of the Fitness Suite – SG advised that all pupils are given an induction and shown general and specific fitness work. They each have a personalised fitness programme and are supervised by Miss McGhee.

3.6 Work Experience – SG provided examples of placements that 4th year pupils will be undertaking during the next 3-4 weeks. Some have found their own placements locally or on the mainland.

Parental Concerns

4.1 Parental help needed for the School Show/Raffle – TJ has spoken to the 'Banner' as to whether they would consider sponsoring the programmes for the Show. The Parent Council have been asked to do the raffle: this will need people to sell tickets on each of the four nights (**TJ, HA, JH, DR** and **RB** have all offered to help). Prizes will need to be found – suggestion that parents are asked to contribute via the next newsletter **ACTION AR/SG**

4.2 School Buses during Study Leave – TJ had received comments that pupils had been charged by bus drivers, on the first day of Study Leave – even when in full uniform and presenting their bus passes.

4.3 Nat. 4 Study leave alternatives – concern expressed that pupils who were not sitting external exams were effectively receiving no formal education for 6 weeks. This was discussed at length – SG explained that there were programmes in place and pupils could undertake an array of 'Added Value' units but could not continue with their courses during that time (having already undertaken their internal assessments) and would not be able to start new courses. Ideas put forward included the 'John Muir' award, however it needs staff commitment and forward planning. SG advised that all schools within North Ayrshire Council (NAC) provide work experience and some pupils have two weeks experience. The concern expressed was that this was a missed opportunity for pupils, who may already be disaffected. PC members asked who was responsible for advising how best to support affected pupils during this period. SG advised that Mrs Logan had drawn up individualised timetables and that pupils were encouraged with self-study, using the school as a resource. NAC are aware of the problem and Head Teachers have been discussing it but have not come to an agreement.

TJ to write to the Scottish Government with copies to NAC, SG and John Bruce (Councillor with responsibility for Education) and highlighting the need for this to be properly resourced.

4.4 Eco Group – SG advised that the Lamlash Primary school are working towards a 'Green Flag' and suggested that the High School needs to decide whether it wants to take part. For an Eco committee (see 9.2) to be set up, it would need a member from each year group, plus staff and parent representation. In order to gain green flag status the group would need to engage in lots of projects, the committee being only one aspect of the work to be undertaken. This is being offered as a wider achievement / community option to S5 & 6 pupils. The Duke of Edinburgh group is involved with the Whiting Bay recycle shop 'Eco Savvy' as an enterprise (with help of Esther Brown from Eco Savvy group).

5. For Discussion/Update:

5.1 Facebook page/website (BM) – needs ratified minutes for 2014 **ACTION Clerk**

6. Head Teacher's report:

6.1 Mrs Gregg detailed several activities that pupils have undertaken recently including a group of S1 & P7 pupils who attend the AOER (Arran Outdoor Education Resource) activity week. This was so successful that 20 places have been booked for a similar week in 2015. S3 'Graph Com.' Pupils enjoyed a Field Trip and S2 pupils took part in 'Arran Avoids Accidents'.

6.2 SG advised that the school has put forward two nominations for the 'Rising Star' awards: Rory Hunter and the 'Chit Chat' café.

6.3 SG advised that all eligible pupils have been registered so that they can vote in the forthcoming referendum on the Independence of Scotland.

6.4 SG advised that there is a strategy group (?) to discuss language development. At present pupils receive tuition in a second language up to the end of their Broad General Education (end of S3). Two German students attended the school recently and this week two Mandarin students have visited both the Primary and High Schools.

6.5 SG attended a meeting today, which looked at "Closing the Gap" between the attainment of pupils who had differing family and income backgrounds.

6.6. Forthcoming events include a Sports Day for which the PE dept. will run heats and fundraising football tournament for CLIC Seargent.

TJ thanked Mrs Gregg for her report.

7. Chairperson's report:

7.1 Forward planning: TJ reminded those present that the

next meeting will be her last as a parent member and the PC will need a new 'Chair'. She suggested that the Chairperson needs to be someone who has their 'finger on the pulse'. The role could be rotated on a term by term basis. With thanks to Jane Macbeth who has been the teacher member for several years, it was suggested that this could be rotated, possibly on an annual basis.

RB is to chair the next meeting and TJ will try to tie up loose ends.

7.2 S6 last Day – TJ expressed thanks to the school and to the S6 pupils who thoroughly enjoyed their final day at school.

8. Curriculum for Excellence: SG reported that three parents attended the 'Senior Phase' drop-in sessions, regarding combined cohort, 6 options and 35 period week, who had concerns about specific option choices for their sons/daughters. Teachers have spoken with lots of other parents to try and get the best fit for their children with regard to options.

8.1 SG advised that there is no direct continuation between the BGE (Broad General Education) subjects studied by S1 - S3 pupils and those of National 4/5 etc. studied in S4 – 6 (Senior Phase). SG pointed out that pupils could pick up subjects that they drop, going into S4, when in S5 at National 4 or National 5 level, or as a 'crash' Higher.

8.2 SG advised that the BGE will be broader, in future. This will enable all pupils to study all of the subjects in a speciality e.g. Social Studies – 3 lessons for Geography plus one each for History and Modern Studies. She emphasised the need to keep all doors open right to the end of the BGE.

9. School Improvement Plan:

9.1 Homework Policy Review – SG circulated the report from Mr Fyfe from which the next steps include: improving the quality of homework being issued; using the information gathered from the survey to recommend how much homework should be issued each week. The overall view was that there were no major concerns and the issue of homework being given the day before it was expected to be returned was addressed at the next staff briefing meeting.

9.2 SIP for 2014-2015 session – SG asked for suggestions for next year (e.g. 'Eco' Group working towards 'Green Flag' – see 4.4). All suggestions welcome:

ACTION ALL

10. Finance

10.1 Expenses claims – claim forms were distributed and should be presented as soon as possible/brought to the next meeting.

10.2 Treasurer – see 'Apologies'.

11. a.o.c.b:

11.1 Prize Giving – SG is keen to review this as the current system makes awards for Merit and Effort in every class. She would like parental representation on a working group (**JH and AR** volunteered) to look at how the system could be improved. Everyone is invited to email comments -

ACTION ALL. SG advised that some prizes cannot be allocated until after exam results are known i.e. 'Dux' and 'Maggie Wright' prize. SG would like invitations to go out in June and suggested the possibility of having both Junior and Senior award ceremonies together.

11.2 P7 Induction evening is on Thursday 12th June. SG wondered how the Parent Council can be promoted to parents. An article in the Banner was suggested, and the presence of PC members at the induction evening 'Carousel'.

11.3 Next meeting **Monday 9th June** (brought forward from 16th)

11.4 Suggested Dates for 2014-2015 Session – Mondays

2014

August	25th	
September	29th	AGM
October	27th	
November	24th	

2015

January	19th
February	23rd

March	23rd
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April	27th
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May	25th
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