

Present: Janine Hart (Brodick); Gordon Provan [Treasurer] Whiting Bay; Ruth Betley [Vice Chair] Torbeg; Deborah Robertson (Blackwaterfoot); Beth Mowatt [Chair] (Dippen); Robin Jenks [Community Member]; Andrew Walsh (Whiting Bay); Darryl Urquhart-Dixon (Balmichael); Mrs Lesley Walker [Teacher representative]; Yvonne Wilson (Brodick); Mandy Aitken (Brodick).

In attendance: Mr Barry Smith [Head Teacher]; Pippa and Andy Downing (Parent forum members); Kate Jenks [Clerk].

1. Apologies: Alison Richards; Ishbel Gordon; Heather Allison.
2. Minutes of meeting September 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 – agreed with minor amendments. Proposed DR, seconded AW.
3. Matters arising:
  - 3.1 School Craft Fayre – Posters given out for distributing around the island – some to be laminated for outdoor noticeboards.
  - 3.2 Deputy Head post – the Acting position will continue until at least the end of February with and advert probably being placed in the Spring.
  - 3.3 Staffing Issues update: Music (Mr Bailey is teaching 0.4 timetable with Mr Lambert taking the rest)  
English – this will be re-advertised immediately (No response to recent advert)  
Social Subjects i.e. History – the closing date is 2<sup>nd</sup> November.  
The video film on the school website – encouraging teachers to come to the school – needs updating and BS has discussed this with the Arran Youth Foundation
  - 3.4 Open Afternoon – the first of these is from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – it offers parents an opportunity to come along and discuss any issues. Mr Smith is keen to engage more parents and break down barriers.
4. Parental Concerns
  - 4.1 Frequency of PC meetings – there was lengthy discussion with differing views as to whether the number of meetings currently planned was possible within the reducing budget provided by North Ayrshire Council (NAC). It was generally felt that the number of meetings was right, although the timing of them could be adjusted, however the PC does not have enough funds to pay for clerking and mileage for PC

members at the current rate (estimated cost is £700 for mileage, if all members claim). The overall opinion was that the two things should be kept separate. Mr Smith's view is that monthly meetings are good and he is keen to develop relationships with the parent group.

Plan: keep the current meetings as planned; **ALL** – advise GP whether you wish to claim travel costs to meetings.

4.2 Improving communication between meetings – it was agreed that emails are not a replacement for meetings, however open discussion via email (replying to 'all') between meetings will be helpful.

4.3 Minutes/action points/agenda emailed out sooner?  
Suggestion that minutes are typed at the time of the meeting – clerk to bring Laptop ACTION **KJ**

5. For Discussion/Update:

5.1 Facebook page – AW has discussed issues re Data Protection, with Mrs Robertson – school admin – especially photographs. It was felt that if the photos are in the 'Banner' then they are ok to use.

There was some discussion as to the functions of the page:

1. For discussion and opinion led by parents
2. For the school to provide information.

AW sees it as a news channel for 'Good News' stories.

5.2 PC Website – less interactive than the facebook page but useful for presenting ratified minutes of PC meetings. The Calendar on the school website is proving very useful.

6. Head Teacher's report: BS had a meeting with Stephen Quinn on 30/9 which focussed on Attainment and Attendance. He has visited all the primary schools bar Whiting Bay to date and wants to be increasingly visible and available to the primary schools. BS has continued to interview individual staff, including primary school staff.

The Senior Pupils' Parents evenings are on 12<sup>th</sup> (1615- 1815) and 19<sup>th</sup> November (1900-2100). Fiona Malone (SQA Link person) will be making a presentation at the first of these, this will be followed by open appointments with teaching staff. BS suggested PC members could be present and would encourage the PC to be visible and is happy for them to canvas opinion from parents about the work of the school.

Help needed with JH (12<sup>th</sup>) and BM (19<sup>th</sup>) ACTION **ALL** to let BM know if able to attend. BM has identification badges available.

6<sup>th</sup> year contract – this has gone out to pupils. BS asserted that these are the norm and this will be a 'starting point'. He would like paid work to be kept to a minimum. Some parents had expressed concern about too much 'control', however during the school week BS needs to know where youngsters are, while trying to provide flexibility. He did say that the contract is likely to change, going forward.

7. Chairperson's report: BM had given her apologies to Greenwood college for 21<sup>st</sup> October. Beth has written to John Butcher inviting him to the PC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November and will invite the chairperson from each of the primary school PCs. Mr Butcher will set out his vision for children and young people in North Ayrshire. **ACTION BM**  
BM has received a letter of thanks from the 'Promoting Positive Behaviour' group, for the £500 (Cheque to the school)
8. Curriculum for Excellence:
  - 8.1 Study Leave – BS advised that there is unlikely to be any study leave next summer. He hopes there will be a definitive statement following Head Teacher meetings due in the next week.  
As far as 5<sup>th</sup> year students are concerned – they may only have the day off prior to their exam. However there will need to be some sort of middle ground consistent across NAC. There was some discussion with concerns expressed that it shouldn't be 'one size fits all'. BS emphasised that these concerns will be discussed at the Head Teacher meetings, including whether the decision should be made locally, or across the whole authority, and that a decision has not yet been made.  
NAC have looked at Work Experience during Study Time, and it was felt this was successful at Arran High School, this year. BS assured the PC that the new way of working will evolve and will provide an update next month.
9. School Improvement Plan: This is now available on the school website, although the level of detail that the school is working to is not on the website.
10. Finance  
Admin finance discussed under 4.1 **ACTION GP** and **AW** to meet to hand over financial information.

11. a.o.c.b:

1. BS spoke about what he sees as a fundamental process, to go through over the next few months, to discuss and identify the 'School Values'. He is planning to invite Derek Gall (who has worked with the Columba 1400 programme) to the school for a 3 day workshop, which will include staff and young people. The aim will be to decide what values are. When a school knows what it means to have values, that can change the culture and ethos of the school. BS reassured PC members that these would be free from political or religious bias.

The real work begins after the values have been decided. Mr Smith is seeking financial support needed to develop new materials to help the whole school understand (~£800). DD pointed out that staff, at the NAC-run Arran Outdoor Education Centre (AOER), already have the skills to do this sort of work (discussion to be held outside of this meeting). Agreement as to the amount of funding is to be deferred until the next meeting, however it was agreed in principle that the PC is supportive.

Date of next meeting: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Current Dates for 2014-2015 Session – Mondays

2014

November                      24th

2015

January                        19th

February	23rd
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March	23rd
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April	27th
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May	25th
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