

## **Minutes of AHS Parent Council Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Present:** Meeting chaired by Robin Jenks (Chair)(Sliddery), Alison Richards (Lochranza), Andrew Walsh (Whiting Bay), Cil Paul (Lamlash), Jane Macbeth (Teacher representative), Beth Mowatt (Kildonan).

**In attendance:** David Fyfe (Depute Head), Mrs Gregg (Depute Head), Kate Jenks (Clerk), Janine Hart (parent forum member).

**Apologies:** Ruth Betley (Vice Chair)(Shiskine), Deborah Robertson (Blackwaterfoot), Patricia Jenkins (Brodict), Alison May (Dippen), Mr Auld (Head Teacher), Joyce Beasley (Community member).

**Minutes of Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> March** Agreed for accuracy - Proposed CP, Seconded AW.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

**3.1 School Trips** – There has been positive feedback from those taking part in the trip to Alton Towers.

The dates for the ski trip (Dec 2012) have been altered so that only one or two days of the term will be missed, instead of a whole week.

Malawi – 9 pupils have expressed interest. The three week trip would include 1 week each of 'helping'; 'having fun' and a 'trek'. It was felt that more information would be useful, particularly as there have been mixed reports about the tour operator. SG assured the council that nothing would be confirmed unless the school is happy that everything is in order.

**3.2 PC Questionnaire** – a version had been circulated prior to the meeting. The question re monthly reports is to be removed, with a question as to whether happy to have comments published to be included. Plan to invite S2 parents to complete the survey at next week's parents evening JH and BM willing to give these out. A 'Survey Monkey' version to be constructed (BM willing to do with help from DF).

**ACTION BM/DF/JH**

**3.3 Housing** – AW has not received a reply to his letter, from Carol Kirk.

### **4. Parental Concerns**

**4.1 S2 Parents' evening** – taking place next week, this will be preceded by the Options presentation (postponed owing to the power cuts prior to Easter). JM advised that there is no deadline for choosing options and

she will be having 1:1 meetings with pupils. Letters will be sent to parents for them to sign if they agree with the options chosen.

## **5. Chairman's report**

5.1 Fundraising – It was agreed that 'Transport off the island' be the focus for future fundraising. Discussion as to how to take forward fundraising ideas – CP put forward view, supported by several parents who had spoken with her, that many parents would be happy to be asked for a donation in lieu of fundraising 'events'. AR suggested pupils could design an envelope that could be given to parents/family members for donations. CP/AR/RJ are to meet next week to discuss this further.

50:50 to be revived. **ACTION CP/AR/RJ**

Suggestion put forward that the Auchrannie would be willing to display artwork. Although the sale of Senior Artwork was suggested, this is the property of the school (as produced as part of their studies) and pupils would be unlikely to have time to produce separate pieces.

AW asked whether 'Programme' sponsorship would be feasible, i.e. for school Shows.

Plan to try direct donation – possibility of using 'Paypal' – DF to set up – the link for this could be sent by email. **ACTION DF**

If this doesn't work – Fundraising events need to be planned, RJ asked JM to thank pupils for producing their list of ideas. **ACTION JM**

5.2 RJ asked DF to pass on thanks from parents to the teachers for all the extra tuition time they are offering.

## **6 Curriculum for Excellence**

6.1 DF provided a collation of responses, from pupil focus groups, regarding interdisciplinary teaching. This has proved a very useful exercise but has yet to be analysed.

## **7. School Improvement Plan**

7.1 School Questionnaire feedback – analysis of this to be brought to the next meeting.

AR raised concerns that there appears to be much less homework set.

Pupil reports state 'excellent homework' and 'always on time' despite

there being no homework given at all, in some subjects. 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils do not seem to have enough homework. JM confirmed that homework diaries are being checked.

## **8. Head Teacher's report**

8.1 SG confirmed that the postponed last day of the Music Festival will take place tomorrow.

8.2 Re History teaching - SG advised that the position regarding this subject teacher could not be confirmed at present. Interviews are taking place for Faculty Head of Social Subjects and Miss Moffat's position could be dependent upon that appointment as it would have a knock on effect.

## **9. Treasurer's report**

9.1 Admin account £726 (most of which is accounted for)  
Fundraising account £1286

10. a.o.c.b.

10.1 CP and RJ will be stepping down after the next meeting as their children are leaving school.

RJ thanked all for attending – meeting closed at 2050.

## **Meeting dates for 2013**

May 13<sup>th</sup> (Mon)

June 10<sup>th</sup> (Mon)