

Present: Lesley Walker (Teacher representative); Ishbel Gordon (Whiting Bay); Beth Mowatt [Chair](Dippen); Mandy Aitken (Brodict); Yvonne Wilson (Brodict); Gordon Provan [Treasurer]Whiting Bay); Andrew Walsh (Whiting Bay); Robin Jenks (Community representative); Alison Richards (Lochranza); Ruth Betley [Vice Chair] (Torbeg); Deborah Robertson (Blackwaterfoot).

Attending: Barry Smith (Head Teacher); Kate Jenks (Clerk)

1. Apologies: Pippa and Andy Downing
2. Minutes of meeting October 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 – agreed with minor amendments: Proposed – RJ; seconded - MA
3. Matters arising:
  - 3.1 Parents' evening - this was held in 2 parts for the senior school, and there were mixed views as to the success of the format. It was felt that some teachers were under particular pressure in that there is only one teacher of English at present. For PC members attending, it was difficult/impossible to fulfil the function of PC member if parents were trying to see teachers themselves.
  - 3.2 Open Afternoon – a handful of parents attended and BS felt it was successful and worth doing, so will continue to offer this.
4. Parental Concerns
  - 4.1 Christmas Concert Raffle (18<sup>th</sup> December) to raise funds for the Parent Council - – **AW** to organise prizes, tickets etc.  
Sell tickets on the night **AW/BM/GP** +/- others. **GP** to announce winners  
'Bottles' to go with main prizes **Anyone**
5. For Discussion/Update:
  - 5.1 Facebook page (AW) -
  - 5.2 Website (BM)Meeting with David Lambert to sort out Facebook page / Website  
**BM + AW**
6. Head Teacher's report
  - 6.1 Staffing update: BS advised that Clare Padden will cover

Maternity Leave for History with effect from January.  
Interviews for the post of English Teacher will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

6.2 BS has visited Whiting Bay primary and has now met with all the primary schools.

BS was pleased that pupils had attended a whole school assembly for Remembrance Day, which was well respected.

6.3 Study Leave - BS advised that North Ayrshire Council (NAC) has announced that there is a change to arrangements for study leave this year. There will be no study leave for S4,5,6 for their prelims.

For the main exam diet only S5 and S6 will have study leave in May.

6.4 Visions, Values and Aims – BS is keen for the PC and wider parent body to be involved and welcomed discussion as to how this might be achieved. A pupil and staff group will be meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. for a couple of hours and would like to engage with parents. RB volunteered to help with this process. **ACTION RB**

6.5 Pupil Reports – BS would like to look at the format and purpose of reporting. NAC are also looking at the system in terms of value and impact, as the aim should be to help children improve.

7. Chairperson's report: BM – felt 'Action Points' worked well, so keen to continue (Action - Clerk)

The School Fayre was a great success – the DofE group raised £230 and the Fayre raised £1000 for school funds.

John Butcher to be asked to attend meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January – BM will ask Frances Rodman for email addresses of Primary PC Chairpersons to invite them also. **ACTION BM**

BM has been invited to the Pupil Council meeting.

8. Curriculum for Excellence: BM pleased to see the House Competition for Charities: each house has been given £8 to build on for their chosen charities: Alzheimer's Scotland; ? Help the Heroes ; Cancer Research; Red Cross. LW has organised this and advised that the House groups are mixed ages and the aim is to develop skills outwith the curriculum.

9. School Improvement Plan:

9.1 Volunteer for 'Values' working group (see 6.4 above). BS has also arranged for AOER to provide two sessions (costs will be less than £800) but may ask for funding from the PC for Advertising/publicising.

10. Finance – accounts are now ready for auditing.
- 10.1 Budget and cost of meetings GP advised that the admin. account has £344 with which to run the PC this year. Discussion continued about how/whether expenses can be claimed and whether claims could/should be sent to NAC directly. AW pointed out that NAC has a statutory responsibility to fund Parent Councils and although it was recognised that all budgets are being cut, further cuts in funding could make it impossible for the AHS parent council to remain viable. AW/GP to email Frances Rodman to see if there is another source of funding (highlight difficulty for Arran PC members to attend mainland meetings). **ACTION AW/GP**
- 10.2 Fundraising account – is healthy with ~ £3000. Ideas for spending needed (?BM to ask Pupil council).
- 10.3 50:50 winners – GP to email names to AW/BM on a monthly basis for the website/Facebook page. **ACTION GP**
- 10.4 Bank Accounts – Change of Signatories and online accounting – GP to arrange **ACTION GP**
11. A.o.c.b.
- 11.1 Parents' mornings organised by Mrs Gregg – good feedback received and all parents enjoyed them.
- 11.2 Maths 'setting' – MA said parents of first year pupils were waiting to learn which level their youngsters would be learning at. BS advised that he is not keen on 'setting' for first year students as there is evidence to show that this can be detrimental to their learning. He advised that there is scope to stretch youngsters in mixed ability classes and he has a meeting with Mr Stewart (Maths) tomorrow. BS is keen to avoid a negative impact on pupils' self-view as learners. He wishes there to be the highest expectation for ALL pupils and advised that teachers can make a much better judgement after S3.
- 11.3 PC Membership – Discussion took place about the merits of changing the number of members (currently max.12 according to the constitution) as PC keen to encourage interested parents e.g. co-opting Pippa and Andy (**RJ** to research) ? EGM on 19<sup>th</sup> January – email conversation meanwhile **ACTION ALL**
- 11.4 BS advised that the school has been given a 'Ceitidh Anderson' Quaich (by her mother) for 'Achievement despite odds'.

Date of next meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015