

Glen Urquhart High School Parent Council

30 April 2015

In Attendance:	PM	Paul Milton	Head Teacher
	SK	Sodi Kakouris	Chairperson
	LI	Lesley Inglis	Treasurer
	MW	Morag Watson	Secretary
	PC	Paula Cooper	
	MF	Morag Fraser	
	LS	Laurina Stobo	

Not Present:

- Emma Cooper
- Karen Hookham
- Laura Quinn
- Roni Smith

Action

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Emma Cooper, Karen Hookham, and Laura Quinn.

2 Minutes of Meeting of 21 January 2015

The minutes were accepted as correct.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Correspondence

4.1 Parent Council Insurance

Parent Councils are required to hold public liability insurance, this is set up and funded by the Highland Council. A copy of our insurance schedule was distributed for information and was noted to be a standard policy.

4.2 Official Email Address

Following on from the Parent Council Chair meeting in November the Highland Council issued all parent councils with their own email address. Ours is glenurquharthighpc@gmail.com. SK and MW will hold the password for access and share anything of relevance. The account has a forum section, information on such topics as the Parent Council Chair Meeting held in November, and is the route through which the Highland Council will contact parent councils.

5 Head Teacher's Report

5.1 School Trips

Soirbheas have awarded us £4,560 to offset the cost of the trip to Laggan during activities week in May. This enables the school to keep the charge to parents at much the same as previous years. Pupils will benefit from professional tutors for the activities and will also take part in events designed to enable them to contribute to their community in some way, as part of the conditions of the award.

PM is keen to keep the trip running in future years but additional funding will be required to keep it affordable. Soirbheas may not

fund the same event repeatedly, though we may be able to apply to them to fund other things.

Other trips in the pipeline:

- 11 pupils going to Paris in early June
- 8 pupils going to Berlin towards the end of June
- Watersports trip to Spain in May 2016

5.2

Staffing

- Calum Scott-Woodhouse, who is covering Laura Fraser's maternity leave, has secured a 1-year post at Millburn Academy.
- Robynn Todd, Probationer, has been appointed on a permanent basis.
- Physics vacancy remains unfilled, having been offered, accepted and then turned down. This resulted in missing the next re-advertising date. PM will re-advertise but meantime we should get a Probationer, but later than planned.
- Advertising for a Principal Teacher to replace Iain Graham, who will retire. Closing date is 5 May.
- Melody Walker-Andrews and Andrew Hay will swap positions so that Melody will be Principal Teacher for Creative and Aesthetics Arts and Andy will be Principal Teacher for Technology.
- Fiona Blackhall had been given a 5-year leave of absence which means it's not guaranteed that she can return to GUHS. Once Brian McNamara has completed 2 years service it's possible he could automatically keep the post. PM is hopeful that he will stay.
- Lesley Carloss is going down to a 4-day week.

5.3

School Development Planning

Development Plans for secondary schools are to move to June. PM will present a draft Quality Standards Report to the June meeting.

PM

5.4

Examinations

PM believed there were strong indications from study leave and prelims that pupils would do well in exams. LS was grateful that staff provided the Easter Study Club.

5.5

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise ran with around 8 senior pupils and Bridge to Employment with 10 pupils and 10 workshops. PM hopes to run these schemes again.

5.6

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

PM hopes staff will take on the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative either this session or next. A YPI representative will be visiting in May to talk through the scheme. It will enable a year group, S3 or above, to partake and gives each participating school £3,000 to give to a local charity. The pupils select suitable charities and work up presentations which go in competition to an audience vote.

5.7

Musical Showcase

There will be a Musical Showcase between 7-10 pm on 23rd June 2015.

5.8

Radon Update

Significant works had been undertaken over recent months to

remedy the one remaining area with a high radon measurement. Another reading is awaited after which we will hopefully get the all clear.

5.9 Computers

PM had used £8,000 from the school budget to undertake a refresh on all computers and some laptops and provide new computers in Mr Humphris's room. All are now wi-fi within the school. Pupils are not yet able to use their own IT kit as the wi-fi service is only available through the Fujitsu machines.

5.10 Modern Languages

At present pupils study French and German in both S1 and S2, there is a growing feeling that this is too much and can lead to some confusion, particularly when teachers are covering both languages. It is proposed to trial one language only for S2 pupils, with effect next session. Pupils can add a second language from S3 if they wish. Pupils will have 3 periods a week for their chosen language and the additional period will be allocated to Interdisciplinary Learning, learning through practice, and will involve pupils rotating between Art and Music, with other departments taking an interest. Working towards concerts, creating props, ideas, rehearsing and really taking ownership of the event.

6 Treasurer's Report

Current balance stands at £3,172.73. Income includes takings from the Film Night and Leavers' Cake sales and outgoings included Easter Eggs for pupils. SK had signed the acceptance form for the Soirbheas grant of £4,560 which was due into the bank account and would be paid out for the residential trip.

LI queried whether the Parent Council Funding from the Highland Council was due in yet. PM would check.

PM

7 Events

7.1 Film Theme Night Update

We thank Robert Morrison, Janitor, for his assistance at the last film.

The sound system has been improved since the last film.

It was agreed that we should arrange another film night in June. Cannich Youth Club had indicated that they would like to come along. Pupils return from Study Leave on 2nd June and we should avoid the Musical Showcase on 23rd June. MW would circulate potential dates for an evening showing of a sci-fi film, and perhaps an afternoon showing of The Jungle Book or similar. Sunday afternoon films may be popular in winter.

MW

7.2 Leavers' Celebrations Update

7.2.1 Photobook

The Leavers had raised further money which we agreed should go towards funding a photobook to be presented to all S6 leavers. PM will ask Cait Gordon to go ahead and arrange. Parent Council will meet the full cost of £14 per book and a thank you gift for Cait. The books could be presented at the final Assembly.

PM

7.2.2

Meal at Loch Ness Inn

LI had received a sample buffet menu from the Loch Ness Inn, which came in at £7.50 pp, but it was not clear that this would be a full-sized meal. It was agreed the budget should be £10 pp to ensure a decent meal was provided for pupils and staff, although it could take the form of a buffet. Parent Council will arrange the invitations and medals, at £2 each. LI

Photos of the evening will be held in a service such as Dropbox with a Facebook message advising pupils of how to access. They will be responsible for downloading or printing out for themselves.

8

Any Other Business

SOSCA

LS asked about SOSCA, which her son had recently undertaken. SOSCA (Secondary Onscreen Curriculum Assessment) is taken by S2 pupils and is a series of three adaptive tests for maths, science and reading, getting harder if answered correctly, and levelling out if answered incorrectly. It is not possible to fail and no revision is required. The test takes 3 hours and the number of questions completed will vary from pupil to pupil. Because it adapts no pupil should find it easy and they do need to concentrate. Generally a score of 100 is average; pupils are not given their score.

Along with a teacher's judgement and experience the results can give an indication of how pupils will perform in subjects and is one of a number of motivational tools used by Key Adults to determine how best to encourage pupils to strive to reach their full potential.

9

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Tuesday 9 June 2015. PM to book meeting room. PM

Future meetings will be held:

- 7pm Wednesday 16 September 2015 – AGM

All note