

MINUTES

Tolsta Primary School - Bun-Sgoil Tholastaidh Parent Council

Tuesday 8th November 2016

In Attendance

Leigh Minion (Chair), John Maciver (Treasurer), Gavin Minion (Secretary), Donna Macdonald (Headteacher), Katherine Mackinnon, Cllr Catriona Stewart, Cllr Donald Crichton, Cllr John A Maciver, Anne Ramsay, Norma Macritchie, Rachel Craig, Andy Craig, Helen Morrison, Paula Greenstock.

Apologies: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Meeting held on the 13th of September 2016 were read and approved.

Matters Arising

Fab Fashion Fridays, Dates have been placed on the Facebook page. Next date proposed is Thursday November 24th to coincide with national road safety week. Pupils are urged to dress with a bright theme.

Health Promotion week, this was very successful. Photos will be displayed at the school shortly.

Online audit tool, The school has completed most of its sections and also completed the section for pupils input. plans to send home a questionnaire for parents input.

Groundworks, no further progress on improvements to the drainage and access yet.

Christmas Concert is going ahead on the 20th of December, starting at 7pm. The school is looking for volunteers from the parent council to provide tea, coffees etc.

Canteen Mural painting, this will begin in the new year.

School Roll, John Maciver has been speaking to Pairc about school actions to improve all day care. Anne Ramsay mentioned wrap around care 9am – 6pm for schools and nurseries.

RM Easimaths, we are still waiting to hear if the local authority is going to buy this. The school will chase this up as we cannot get the OK to buy it on ourselves until the decision is made.

Agenda items

School website update, the website now links to an under construction page., this may be passed to the new headteacher to begin anew.

Parent Council Constitution. Gavin Minion raised this to check that we had the correct members on the committee and were quorate. According to the constitution, we have enough members to meet the constitution. Ideally the committee could do with a Vice Chairperson, however it was agreed that this position can be left unfilled until the next AGM.

Physical Education, one parent raised concern that PE had been intermittent over the last few weeks. Katherine Mackinnan pointed out that a couple of these instances could have been due to events such as teachers being absent or during health awareness week where there was physical activity but not at the usual time or place. Donna Macdonald added that, on holiday weeks, the hours of PE provision are sometimes reduced.

School governance review, the parent council has been given notice of a school governance review at the parent council forum. There will be a meeting on Monday 14th of November, The Chair will report back on this at the next meeting.

Start date for the new headteacher is not know yet but will be announced. The new headteacher has visited the school and will be in again on the 16th.

Head teachers report

RAFA (Raising Attainment for All) . Last years focus was on Literacy, this years is Numeracy, the school is identifying potential RAFA projects for next year.

The pupils are currently learning their lines and practicing for the school Christmas play. Progress is going well and everybody is looking forward to the performance.

School trips, there has historically been one trip every two years, with trips to Scaladale in between larger organized school trips. Katherine is going to begin to make arrangements for smaller activities. Helen Morrison mentioned the possibility of the mobile climbing wall coming to Tolsta.

Rachel Craig mentioned Tim Pickering who takes groups of children out on wildlife and outdoor activity day trips. Rachel suggested he be contacted to take some of the Tolsta pupils to a local beach for a wildlife or 'coasteering' trip. Rachel also mentioned the possibility of getting a dolphin rescue group to arrange a dolphin spotting trip.

Rachel had spoken to Teresa polytunnel, she has suggested that TCDL could pay for a couple of extra hours to visit the school for an educational visit. The Parent council agreed to write a letter to TCDL requesting a visit.

Treasurers report

The bank balance currently stands at 2062. Aileen has asked for the parent council to pay for strimming of the of the grass. The bill for this was 100, there were no objections to the parent council paying for this. Norma Macritchie also raised that this could become a regular strimming to keep the grass.

Pantomime, the parent council paid 60 towards the bus last time and it was asked if the parent council could pay a contribution of 151 towards the cost of tickets. Anne Ramsay asked for a contribution towards the cost of nursery pupils attending. This raised the contribution to 160 and there were no objections.

Pupil council, the council has been consulted on their version of the school improvement plan to determine what they would like to spend their Fab Fashion Friday money on.

Any other business

Beach safety, Norma Macritchie asked the school to make pupils aware that areas of the beach may be unsafe due to sinking sand. In places this is quite deep and her daughter became caught in it without warning. The school agreed that this should be raised as well as general safety near the sea and cliffs.

The next meeting is to be held on January 24th 2017.