

MINUTES

Tolsta Primary School - Bun-Sgoil Tholastaidh Parent Council

Monday 24th April 2017 7:00PM

In Attendance

Leigh Minion (Chair), John Maciver (Treasurer), Gavin Minion (Secretary), Kirsteen J Maclean (Headteacher), Catriona Stewart, Cllr John A Maciver, Cllr Donald Crichton, Norma Macritchie, Katherine Mackinnon, Rachel Craig, Andy Craig.

Apologies: Erica Macleod, Anne Ramsey, Helen Morrison.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Meeting held on the 24th of January 2017 were read and approved.

The minutes from the Meeting held on the 23rd of March 2017 were read and approved.

Matters Arising

Free School Meals; Kirsteen is waiting for information from the Comhairle and will pass on to Leigh when it arrives.

Enrolments; Next years enrolment figures currently stand at: 5 Pupils leaving from P7; 3 pupils joining in P1, No new nursery enrolments. The expected school roll will be 25 in primary and 2 in nursery. Figures from (where?) indicate that there are currently 18 pre-school children in the Tolsta catchment, currently, 4 will be enrolling at the Nursery and 4 are known to be going elsewhere, the status of the other 10 children is not known.

The Parent council will attempt to contact parents with pre school children in Tolsta and suggest they contact the school to let staff know if their children will be enrolling. This will help the school to plan for the future.

School garden; Theresa from the TCDL polytunnel will be contacting the school to arrange a time to visit. This will probably for a 2-3 hour visit once per week.

Grass cutting in the school garden; Norma has the contact details of a gardener who has cut the grass in the play area. Norma is going to arrange a quote for cutting the grass in the school garden for the next meeting.

Fab Fashion Friday; The next Fab Fashion Friday, will be held this Thursday the 27th due to schools being closed on the Friday. Currently the FFF account stands at £370.20 . Leigh attended a meeting of the School Pupil Council recently to discuss how to spend this money. The opinion of the Pupil Council was that new goalposts would be a good choice.

John Maciver is to obtain prices and arrange a purchase using the FFF money.

School Strips; The price of the strips has increased to £600 from GDK. As well as the price increase, the Parent Council is having difficulty contacting GDK and this matter is still ongoing. John Maciver will continue to try and identify the reason for the increase; If necessary, the Parent Council will contact another supplier. Kirsteen recommended Sportsworld having used them in the past for school sports purchases.

Headteachers Report

A calendar of events for next term will be going to parents shortly.

The School Prize-giving ceremony will be held on 28th of June 2017 at 9:30 AM..

The 2017 Lewis Provincial Mod will be held between the 30th of May and 2nd of June. The Tolsta School Choir will be performing on Friday the 2nd of June.

An After School Club will run during this term starting on Monday the 8th of May and running for Six Weeks. Activities will include Crafts and Cooking.

Scottish Attainment Challenge: This is an initiative for schools aimed at raising attainment for children in deprived areas. Currently, there are no pupils in Tolsta School registered as eligible; However, the school is hoping to get an allocation for pupils who need additional support in the school.

Head of Children's Services and Resources, Bernard Chisholm will be visiting the School on the 12th of May to review attainment and achievement under GIRFEC.

Staffing: At present, Rachel Cooke remains absent. As does Katherine Macritchie.

After a question from John Maciver, the HT noted that there has been considerable variation in staffing provision over the last few years with a number of changes to teaching staff. The HT has raised her concerns regarding this with the staffing officer.

HGIOS: The results of the How Good is Our School review have been collated and the school is in position to create a school improvement plan.

QAMSO: Katherine Mackinnon attended a Quality Assurance Moderation Support Officers Event. The purpose of which was to pass information on how assessment (i.e. whether a pupil has achieved a level) is carried out. Katherine described the event as "a very, very useful experience".

Events: World book day was successful in the school in early March. Comic relief was also a success with noses being flown in especially from Glasgow to meet demand. On receipt, it was discovered that one of these noses was a rare 'Frankinose'.

Standardised Assessments: Results from these are minimal at present, but the trial was useful and gave staff a level of confidence. It was observed that pupils are becoming used to the digital assessments.

Treasurers report

At this point, the council have £1600 in the bank and a further £500 was passed to the school as a float for school uniforms. The treasurer suggested that this is more money than needs to be retained and that ideas for expenditure from the school would be welcomed.

Any other business

Parent Rachel Craig raised the question of playground supervision at the school. There have been a few incidents reported in the playground of unacceptable behavior. Currently, it is difficult to measure how much of a problem this is as there is no playground supervision during break and lunch times, therefore, much of the evidence comes from pupils themselves. The Headteacher confirmed that there is currently no provision in place at present and could not give a commitment in future.

The parent council at this point recorded their thanks to Catriona Stewart for her services to Tolsta School and to education throughout the island in her time as the chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

Date of next meeting: Provisionally Monday 11th of September,