



**SGOIL A'BHAC  
PARENT COUNCIL**

**Minute of Meeting**

Date: 04.12.17

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Sgoil A'Bhac

**Chairperson: Dana Murray**

**Secretary: Eilidh MacPhail**

**Treasurer: Mandy Gillies**

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**Present: Dana Murray, Jill Lockerby, Dawn MacLennan, Eilidh MacPhail, Mairi Maclean, Allan Cameron Maclachlan, Catherine MacLennan, Eileen Macmillan, Mandy Gillies (PC Members) Margaret Macritchie, Norma Maciver, Anna Wilson, Rietta Corbett, Carol Macdonald, Annette Gordon (Parent Forum) John A Maciver, Donald Crichton, Calum Maclean (Councillors)**

**Staff: Christina Macleod (Teacher)**

**Apologies: Kirsteen Maclean (Head teacher), Ali Maclean, Erica Clark**

| Item | Summary and Action   |
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| 1    | Welcome<br>Chair Dana Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the Councillors and Carol.   |
| 2    | Apologies<br>Apologies from Ali Maclean and Kirsteen Maclean. Erica Clark also sent apologies- she has agreed to become a member of the Parent Council as discussed at the last meeting.   |
| 3    | Approval of Minutes<br>The minutes were considered page by page, and subsequently recommended for approval by Mandy, seconded by Mairi.  |
| 4    | Matters arising<br><p><b>a. Head Teacher's Report</b><br/>As the Head Teacher was unable to attend, no report was available on this occasion.</p> <p><b>b. Fundraising</b><br/>Dana noted the success of the Parent Council stall at the Back Football Club/Community Council Christmas fair on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Mandy advised that profit on the day had been £351 with some money still coming in from goods that weren't sold on the day. Mandy also noted that a new Parent Council banner has also been purchased (£60) which was successful in drawing attention to the stall and should be well used at future events. Dana gave thanks to all those who contributed and helped out on the day of the craft fair.<br/>Mandy reported on 11.12.17 that £406.83 was the profit to bank from the craft fair, plus £49 from 1<sup>st</sup> December dress down day. Other outgoings were £105 for Sgoil Araich trip and £87.80 for MPLC licence. The bank balance is currently £1600.37.</p> |

### **c. Anti-bullying Guidelines**

Eilidh noted that the anti-bullying guidelines were to be considered for approval by the Parent Council- these had been emailed to all members in advance of the meeting. Christina confirmed that these were already in place and had been developed throughout the last year, based on the wider Council plan but tailored for Sgoil a' Bhac. Allan and Mandy noted that they were very thorough and as there were no further comments or objections the guidelines were approved.

Dana proposed moving through the actions from the previous meeting.

**Soup and pudding:** It was agreed that the Christmas fair had taken the place of the soup and pudding for the time being and we would consider a future event further into the new year, as well as considering the potential for a summer fun day.

**Christmas concert hampers:** Donations will be coming in to the school for these during the next week and Margaret in the office had advised some donations had already been received. It was agreed to meet next week in the library, beginning on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December to start putting the hampers together. It was also agreed that raffle tickets would be sold at both shows with Allan and Dawn volunteering for the 1pm show and Eileen, Catherine, Mandy, Mairi and Dana indicating they would be available for the evening show. It was felt that 4-5 volunteers per show would be needed.

**Letters to supermarkets:** Mandy advised that she had drafted a letter to be sent to Tesco, the Co-op and Iceland but had not yet sent it. A discussion was had around whether or not to request dates around Christmas or the Hebridean Celtic Festival, but Mandy raised the issue of finding it more difficult to get volunteers on those dates. Jill suggested that as they are normally so busy, any date would be OK. Margaret suggested asking for checkouts and a table for a hamper to maximize funds raised.

**Technologies list:** Christina advised that the teachers had been asked in the last week to draw up 'wish-lists' for technology purchases, and had worked in class groupings (P1/2; P3/4; P5/6/7). Christina indicated these the lists included a variety of items linked to computing, building, fine motor skills and gave some examples including Bebots, Codebugs, Syringe pump tippers to show hydraulics, snap fasteners, needles etc for sewing. The figure for P1/2s wish list was around £500 and for P5-7 around £450. Mandy asked if there was a date in mind for the purchase of these but Christina felt they were not urgent. She suggested typing up the list in January and passing it back to the Parent Council then. Norma asked whether parents could be approached for old Lego etc. Christina indicated that Lego was not on the list but was always welcome and used at the last Masterclass. Annette highlighted that technologies could also link with the playground project, for example, weights and measures using sand and cups. Christina noted that they were doing an outdoor project this week involving measuring and planting daffodil bulbs. Eilidh raised the question of whether funding for this could be found from other sources. Carol questioned whether the Council would be paying for this if it formed a part of the curriculum. Councillor Maclean noted that this would have been the case in the past but times have changed. Eilidh suggested that particular companies could be approached for help with particular items on the list (eg renewable energy companies for windmills). Councillor Maclean agreed that they may be willing to do this in return for some publicity. Annette suggested there may be money available via the recycling centre, while Eileen suggested Alan Smithyman (E-sgoil) may be able to advise. Norma gave the example of local companies having previously helped out at another school demonstrating hydraulics with a crane and suggested that local companies had been very generous in the past. Councillor

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|   |      | <p>Crichton suggested the councilors may be able to make some enquiries as to possible funding available from other sources.</p> <p><b>School Foyer:</b> The consensus was that it was still a good idea to try to make progress on brightening up the school foyer, but that to do so, a detailed plan would need to be put through Technical Services, ideally in time for the end of the financial year. Christina Macleod agreed to consult with pupils on ideas at the next Pupil Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> January and would feed back to the next Parent Council meeting. It was agreed that a working group would be set up to take this forward, comprising of Allan, Margaret, Norma, Catherine and Mairi.</p>  |
| 5 | AOCB | <p><b>Grounds for Learning:</b> Annette raised the issue of Grounds for Learning (GfL) and gave those present a brief background into how the GfL visit and project had come about. She highlighted a letter from the previous Parent Councillor secretary Joanna Finlayson which had been sent to the Director of Education, Bernard Chisholm, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016. This requested £500 to get the project started and suggested that Sgoil a’ Bhac act as a pilot for GfL in the Western Isles. No letter of response was received. Stephen Moizer from GfL visited the school last May and held focus groups with staff, pupils and parents and produced a detailed report on potential improvements. Annette met with the Head teacher shortly after the last Parent Council meeting, and the HT acknowledged that she didn’t have much time to devote to this project due to other priorities, so Annette offered to take the lead and they agreed on this and to begin with the nursery area. Annette met with Anne Ramsey, play leader in the nurse, and they made a list of what the children may need and what could be done in the area. Annette asked Kirsteen to pass the plan on to Gordy in Technical Services, as she was meeting with him the following Tuesday. Annette then read out an email update on the current status of the project which she had received from the Head Teacher in the past two weeks. This indicated, among other things, that a plan would need to be put in place by a Working Group which would then need to be approved by Technical Services, through a ‘Request to carry out building works’ form and it may take anything up to a minimum of a year to get work looked at. The only improvements which could be made without this process would be to install ‘portable non-permanent equipment’. Other concerns were raised regarding the use of builders’ sand for sandpits and digging tyres into the ground. No work could be undertaken by volunteers without these volunteers having been approved by Technical Services (eg parents who are qualified tradespersons may be given clearance). Annette had tried to phone Donald Macleod to clarify some of these issues and he had said he would look into it but she had had no further response to date. She had also phoned Stephen Moizer of GfL for his advice on how to progress. Councillor Crichton questioned how other schools had been able to make these changes and suggested inviting Donald Macleod to the next meeting. Mandy noted that the Care Commission provisions on sand would only apply to the nursery area and not to the P1-7 area. She noted that assurances had been given 5-6 years ago, when a host of new schools were being built, that the Council would ensure that Back was kept up to standard and the playground in particular has been a long-standing issue. The Councillors indicated that they may be able to arrange a meeting with the Director of Education and would follow up the letter of April 2016. Councillor Crichton took a copy of the letter. Eilidh suggested that the next step should be setting up a Working Group to make a detailed plan which could then be discussed with Technical Services on site. Christina noted that current play equipment has to go in and out of the changing rooms and it would be more convenient if this was outside. The older children were given the task of helping with this but this sometimes meant they lost their break time, though it did give them a sense of responsibility.</p> |

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|   |         | <p>She noted how children would use what was there; for example, they had all been very keen on skipping for a period last year when skipping ropes were provided and used as part of a project in class. Councillor Maclean advised that the Parent Council should keep pressing to get action taken in this area. It was suggested that Annette contact the Head Teacher to let her know that the Councillors were planning to follow this up and that a Working Group was being set up. The Working Group consists of Annette, Anna, Rietta, Carol, Allan and Eilidh.</p> <p>A further Working Group was set up to pursue the Fundraising and Technology purchase consisting of Mandy, Dawn, Dana and Jill.</p> <p>Councillor John A Maciver said it was great to see so many turning out for the meeting and Councillor Crichton commented that it was the strongest parent Council he had seen since becoming involved.</p> <p>Dana thanked everyone for coming.</p> |
| 6 | D.O.N.M | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018  |
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| Date     | Action  | Responsible                               | Status   | Comments   |
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|          | <b>COMPLETE</b>   |   |          |  |
| 11.10.17 | Invitation of Councillors to next meeting   | Eilidh (Mandy to send on email addresses) | Complete |  |
| 11.10.17 | Head Teacher to send copy of anti-bullying guidelines draft to Secretary for distribution to Council and members to return any comments by 30 <sup>th</sup> October | Head Teacher/Eilidh/All Members           | Complete | Approved   |
| 1.10.17  | Check with Angela regarding suitable dates for soup and pudding   | Mandy                                     | Complete | Angela suggested 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov and 2 <sup>nd</sup> December but there are other events in the Community on those dates, so it was decided to leave it until end of Jan/Feb. |
| 11.10.17 | Consider and consult on target fundraising aim for technologies and timeframe before next meeting   | Head Teacher                              | Complete | To be submitted to PC in January   |
|          | <b>ONGOING</b>  |   |          |  |
| 11.10.17 | Contact Tesco/Co-op and Iceland for availability of bag-packing slots   | Mandy                                     | Ongoing  | Letter ready to be sent  |
| 11.10.17 | Ask for pupil views on school foyer through Pupil Council   | Head Teacher/ Staff representative        | Ongoing  | Pupil Council meeting in January   |

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| 04.12.17 | Notify Margaret and Head Teacher of approved minutes and anti-bullying guidelines                           | Eilidh                     |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Contact local companies re funding for technologies   | Fundraising WG             |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Investigate other sources of funding for technologies   | Councillors/Fundraising WG |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Write to parents asking for technology related donations  | Fundraising WG             |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Working group to propose plan for foyer following receipt of pupil views                                    | Foyer WG                   |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Follow up on letter from Parent Council to Director of Education of April 2016                              | Councillors                |  |  |
| 04.12.17 | Working group to meet to develop plan for playground and discuss with Donald Macleod and Technical Services | GfL Working Group          |  |  |