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| Meeting Title | Parent Council AGM |
| Council Date | 18.04.2017 |
| Location | Tiree High School, Home Economic Room @ 7.30 pm |

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| Chaired by: | Will Wright (WW) |
| Present: | Graham Wilks (GW) Joe Bennett(JB), Áine Cooney (ÁC), Jaclyn McNeil (JM), Julie MacLennan (JML), Paul Le Roux (PLR), Lynn MacCallum (LM), Jayne Smith (JS), Nancy McKechnie (NM), Caroline Maclean (CM) |
| Apologies: | Jo Vale |
| Minutes by: | Áine Cooney |

1. **Welcome:** WW welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes from last year's AGM** (May 2016) were proposed by WW and approved by all those present.
3. **Annual reports:** WW gave the chairman's report:
 - There had been many changes over the last 12 months, demonstrated by the attendance at school events and the atmosphere in the school. He reported that there was a 'real positive vibe' about the school and within the community of Tiree
 - WW thanked Graham Wilks for his leadership as head teacher. Further, he thanked Sarah Le Roux in her role of Acting Depute Head Teacher and Áine Cooney on her appointment as Depute Head Teacher. He also thanked Julie MacLennan for taking up her role of Learning Support within the school.
 - WW thanked all members of the Parent Council for helping to provide refreshments at a number of events, smartening up the Gaelic Primary pupil washroom and for their participation in consultations/surveys.
 - WW thanked all of the Parent Council committee members and the office bearers for their work over the last year.

Treasurer's report: Lynn MacCallum reported a healthy balance in the Parent Council/Parent Teachers Association accounts and presented a report to the meeting detailing the main items of income and expenditure. The need for an additional committee to serve on the PTA was questioned and marked as something for that group to discuss.

- WW thanked everyone who had supported the Parent Council throughout the year.

4. Election of committee and office bearers

- WW explained that the committee can have from 3 to 12 members including the office bearers, plus an additional two staff reps. All current office bearers are keen to stay on the committee, and with two additional parents elected from those present this gave a total of 6 Committee members for the coming year:
 - Jaclyn McNeil
 - Julie MacLennan
 - Paul Le Roux
 - Lynn MacCallum
 - Jo Vale
 - Will Wright
- The staff reps last year were Joseph Bennett and Mairi Forbes. Joseph Bennett agreed to be a member of the committee for the coming year. Mairi Forbes was not present at the meeting but she will be contacted to ascertain her position.
- The Office Bearers for the coming year were elected:

Chair : Will Wright

Vice Chair : Paul Le Roux

Treasurer: Lynn MacCallum

Secretary: Vacant

5. School Transport

WW invited an open discussion regarding experiences and challenges Tیره High School students were having regarding the use of the school buses. He asked Nancy McKechnie and Caroline MacLean to provide an outline of the services offered.

The following information was provided:

- Nancy McKechnie provides the 'East End' bus and the Balephetrish bus. Caroline MacLean provides the 'West End' bus. It was made clear that these were two different bus companies (contractors)
- When parents register to have their children collected they are sent a code of conduct. The bus companies have to adhere to the Argyll and Bute School Bus/Transport Policy.

- If the weather is bad or there is a forecast of winds gusting to 60/65 mph the two bus companies make a decision to cancel the bus service. This is in the interest of the safety of the children. The bus companies inform Argyll and Bute if they cancel the buses. At other times of bad weather it is very difficult for the children to get on and off the buses. It would be helpful if an adult was able to assist them onto and off the buses when the weather is bad.

WW asked if there was any difficulty with behaviour or the management of behaviour on the buses.

The response was as follows:

- The safety of the children is paramount and keeping the bus on the road is a priority. The roads on Tiree are narrow and sometimes difficult. Watching the children is not easy when the driver is watching the road.
- The bus drivers have at times stopped the bus to remind the children to sit in their seats. If there is a case of poor behaviour this is reported to the school transport officer in Argyll and Bute by the bus companies. The transport officer then contacts the parents. It is then up to the transport officer if they decide to put the child off the bus for example.
- The school bus is a public bus and members of the public can get on the bus. When members of the public get on to the bus this does not change the behaviour or language of the students on the bus. There is a published timetable for the buses and in the summer in particular it this bus service is used by members of the public.

GW asked about for clarification regarding the frequency of the students not wearing of seatbelts, use of bad language and students being out of their seats.

The response was as follows:

- The use of bad language is prevalent.
- Students being out of their seats is occurring most days
- Staff at the school ensure the students are wearing their seatbelts when the bus leaves the school. However, sometimes the bus is hardly down the road and the children have already taken their seatbelts off.
- In order to find out how this can be handled the Argyll and Bute transport Officer would need to be contacted.

- CM said that parents have responsibility for their children's behaviour. GW added that the pupils should also take responsibility for their behaviour.
- NM reported that warnings or instructions are not always adhered to.
- PLR asked if the driver could stop the bus when the students take off their seatbelts or get out of their seats. CM responded that this does happen when required. Though responsibility rests with the pupil as to whether they keep their seatbelt on.

GW asked what reasonable steps could be taken to improve behaviour on the school buses?

- CM reported that the drivers had a note book that they could write in the names of the students who had not behaved on the bus. School would then be contacted and details shared. The School Transport Office at Argyll and Bute would also have to be informed.

Options were discussed including having volunteer parents/pupils on the buses, having zero tolerance policy for bad behaviour

WW proposed that the school and the parents need to work with the bus companies and that a clear set of consequences for poor behaviour should be agreed.

JS informed the meeting that all parents sign a behaviour agreement for the bus service when their children starts school in P1. She proposed that perhaps this agreement needs to be signed each school year.

JS reported that behaviour on the buses can also influence behaviour and relationships in school.

JML suggested that we should seek to involve Tiree's Police Officer – perhaps to provide assemblies for the children on safety advice on the roads.

NM and CM asked that if a student moves house on the island the parents needs to inform them as the bus companies need to inform the school transport officer. If a student is going to a friend's house after school the parents should contact the bus company in order to give prior notice and ensure there is available space on the bus.

NM and CM informed the meeting that the contacts in Argyll & Bute regarding school buses are: Douglas Blades and Karen Henderson.

GW proposed that the incident report book should be implemented on both buses and be up and running as soon as possible. The bus companies should contact the school each day to let the school know of any incidents. The school will then inform

the parents. The school will use the messenger service to send a message to the parents phone.

Graham Wilks proposed:

- Clarification was required regarding the school bus transport policy and how it was to be enforced
- Consider ways the bus company and the school can link in with parents in order to improve behaviour on the buses
- Clarification to be sought on what sanctions can be implemented following poor/inappropriate behaviour
- Setting up a system in which the bus companies inform the school of incidents on the buses, then the school informing parents.

WW thanked NM and CM for coming to the meeting and having a useful discussion.

6. Update from HT

- Stuart Smith the school IT technician is now back in school full time
- Thank you to Fiona Malcolm, David Vale, Stewart MacLennan and Jessie Gray for providing excellent activities for our students
- There will be no activities this term. The students are completing an RME course and a Wider Achievement Award (John Muir) and next session the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Thanks to Jack and Jen for organising the Ardmann Film Company coming into the school and providing an excellent learning opportunity. This was enjoyed by all staff and students alike.
- Fund raising for the school trips has been excellent, £5971 has been raised and with donations the total now exceeds £10,000. This money has contributed to 4 school trips: £782 towards the Gaelic Edinburgh trip, £1,248 to the Howl trip, £1,928 to the Stirling trip, £6,000 to the Amsterdam trip and £260 to Careers/UCAS events/trips. This is a fantastic effort and achieved by huge amounts of work from parents, staff, children and the Parent Council. It is envisaged that there will be a foreign trip every two years and possibly a UK trip in between.
- A copy of a Parental Questionnaire was distributed to those present. It was explained that this is an example of the types of questions given during a school inspection. A questionnaire will be distributed to parents before the end of May 2017.
- A request was given for the formulation of a Parent Council focus group regarding the Vision, Values and Aims for the school, as it was time for us to

reflect on our current statements and ensure they reflect Tiree. The group would also look at Argyll and Bute's new Education Strategy Policy.

- Thank you to all staff who gave up a day of their Easter holidays to provide exam study days for our senior pupils.
- Thank you to JML who has taken over the role of Learning Support from AC
- Primary Management - discussions with Louise Connor have taken place regarding staffing models in 3-18 schools of various sizes within Argyll and Bute. There is another meeting on Monday to get further clarification regarding our entitlement e.g. PT ASN, PT Pastoral and PT Primary.
- ELCC – there has not been much progress regarding the move. The quantity surveyor is making final enquiries.
- The security doors should be in place by the end of May

JML asked about the opening of the library. Graham Wilks informed the meeting that he had been attempting to ring Kevin Baker and he would continue to gain some clarity/information regarding this.

7. **Minutes from previous meeting in January:** any items not picked up already were updated on:

- WW reported that he had contacted the Trust to enquire if anyone else/group on the island were interested in securing the use of a minibus. At this time there was little expressed need, but the enquiry was noted should further demand arise.
- JS thanked the Tiree Trust and Y-Dance for providing and funding a fantastic opportunity for Tiree High School. It was enjoyed thoroughly and she hoped they could return.

8. **AOB**

- Andy Rossiter sent his thanks for the support provided during the school cross country run. Andy also requested support during the schools Sports Day on the 23rd of June.
- Julie MacLennan informed the meeting of a fund raising opportunity for the school during the TMF event. Previously, raffling a signed T shirt had been a good fund raiser for the school. The tickets could be sold by students at the event as well as adults.

9. **Date for next meeting:** this was scheduled for 24/08/2017

The meeting closed was closed at 9:30pm