



Tír na nÓigheachd – Ard-Sgoil Thiriodh

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Title:	Tír na nÓigheachd Parent Council Open Meeting
Date:	Thursday 25 th August 2016
Location: Time:	School art room

Chaired by:	Will Wright (WW)
Present:	Graham Wilks, Julie MacLennan, Joe Bennett, Jayne Smith, Paul le Roux, Emma Rossiter, Mairi Forbes, Jaclyn MacNeill, Donna Hayes, Andy Hayes, Hannah Wright, Judith MacIntosh, Laura Kilpatrick, Johann MacLean, Lynn MacCallum, Aine Cooney, Sian Milne, Alison Colthart, Michelle Patterson.
Apologies:	Jo Vale
Minutes by:	WW

1. Welcome

WW welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. A particular welcome to Mr Graham Wilks our new HT.

2. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting in May were proposed by PLR, seconded by JMacL and agreed by all without amendment.

Mairi Forbes was appointed as staff rep, which completes the team of office bearers.

WW gave a brief overview of Parent Council and ways to stay involved.

3. Introduction to current work areas from Graham Wilks

GW thanked parents, pupils and staff for their warm welcome. An opportunity was given to raise any particular concerns parents had:

- Emma Rossiter noted the numbers in pre5 were putting a strain on staffing and facilities. There are 22 pupils enrolled, with the maximum provision being 20. GW updated on provision with Hannah MacKechnie providing ad hoc cover when the full roll is in attendance. It has since become clear that Hannah is not currently on the A&BC supply list although she has now submitted an application to be added. There is a vacancy advertised internally which closes on 26th August so this cover will hopefully stay in place until the successful applicant is in post. There is a visit next week from Alison MacKenzie (Principal Officer, Early Years) to look at early years provision and a review will be made of the facilities.
- Use of school facilities was discussed and access to school for community groups.
- PLR summarised the findings from the Trust sponsored charrette programme with lack of subject choice being a key driver for pupils leaving THS.
- Library provision was also discussed, together with access to the library for school and community. It was noted what a loss it is not to have a librarian in the school, and how useful Katie's contribution was to all pupils and staff.

4. SQA & Attainment

GW updated on the visit from Louise Connor (Education Manager) and Kathryn Wilkie (QIO). KW will be the future liaison with the school once things have settled down. It was noted that THS has a high proportion of Advance Highers achieved, and a low number of no awards. THS was said to be a positive contributor to overall Argyll & Bute achievement.

5. Overseas trip for secondary



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The idea had been floated to do a trip abroad for secondary. Staff were keen, and parents were given the opportunity for comment. There was lots of enthusiasm and ideas for fundraising. GW put forward concept of offering trip to whole of secondary. There was sufficient support for this to be looked into further.

6. S4 subject choice

GW explained current provision of 5 subjects in S4, which then leaves no room for choices in S5, with pupils left to potentially choose subjects they were not strong in. Staff and pupils had been consulted about the change to a 6 subject model, with the result being a unanimous vote in favour. Additional subjects would be offered in Geography, History, Drama, Biology, Music Tech. These would be taught through effective use of staff time and expertise. JB is working on timetabling and this will be approved in the coming days.

GW also put forward possibility of himself teaching a technical subject such as woodwork. Certification in use of machines would be required, and he needs to explore what other criteria need to be met, but with this and other subject cover he will be involved in teaching provision.

JMacL asked about using skills from within the community. Jayne Smith summarised some of the current provision including Work Experience, Rural Skills, and the addition of Veterinary to work experience. GW explained some of the difficulties in utilising community skills, and highlighted the proposed increase in subject choice together with his own potential teaching subjects.

7. AOB

JS questioned whether there is still demand for Gala day. There seemed to be fond memories of previous events, so the proposal to withdraw gala day was changed to a plan to rethink how it's run.

JMacL reminded everyone to use EasyFundraising, and indeed there has already been a useful contribution to PC funds with just 19 people signed up. We need to continue to encourage more people to utilise this.

9. Date of next meeting

This was not discussed, but a proposed schedule would be put together and circulated by WW.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm with thanks given to all, and an encouraging start to the new school year.