

Kinlochleven High School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held in Ballachulish on 29th October 2014 @ 8pm

Present – GM, JM, GD, IW, FD, SB, FB

Apologies – BG, AB, EB, CMc, MMc, MH, PM

Minutes from last meeting and matters arising – The Bridge is delaying the bus most mornings as expected.

Hydro Scheme – No further forward – still awaiting reports.

Head Teachers Situation – Stewart Borland emailed the board with the news that there had been no applicants. Unfortunately a meeting scheduled with Bill Alexander was cancelled as things seemed to be progressing, this will now be re-arranged. (Andrew Baxter is arranging this). Norma said she would look at what could be done to make the position more enticing: i.e. improved salary. Saying this Gordon Milne had had a conversation with her and it was indicated that the salary would remain as is. This first thing that will happen is that the post will be re-advertised. On a more positive note Gordon has reassured us that he will stay in the post until a suitable applicant is found, this will give the school stability. Gordon was also hopeful that a second advertisement would be more successful as most potential applicant do not apply initially as they expect the current acting head to apply and get the position.

The Primary school have two very good applicants through to the final stage of interviews.

Head Teachers Report - With regards to staffing Brian Gunn can now only manage 1 day a week which means Jill Mills has to teach more. Jill will try to get more help – a possibility is in the pipe line.

In Computing the current teacher has applied for a job so he may leave soon leaving Gordon in the same situation as Jill needed to teach more.

Other than the two previous problems staffing the only possible change is that Mrs Muir (Biology teacher) who was away on maternity leave has decided not to return. The current teacher will continue on in the position and will probably apply for the post when advertised.

The probationers are doing well.

No other staffing issues.

Trips – last term the France trip and Activities arranged for those who did not go were both very successful. The 6th year 3 day trip to leadership through adventure was a very interesting and positive experience. Would recommend it is done again.

A letter was received by Gordon stating that there was allot of excursions etc and little work being done. Although this was true, there will be nothing of this kind for the rest of year. It just happened

that due to cost factors this was the cheaper time and things like the Duke of Edinburgh award have to be done in Summer time.

Budget – Over the whole of the Highland area 11% has to be cut from the budget. As care and learning get 75% of the budget, this area will need to be cut the most.

KHS pupil roll is stable and if anything forecast to rise so we shouldn't lose teachers as we are not over staffed. (Some schools may need to lose 2 teachers). As a school we will need to cut our budget by approx 1% but as we don't use supply teachers much we could use that money elsewhere.

A possible cut may be in the quality assessment area and Learning support – we don't have much in this area so shouldn't be an impact there.

School buses may be affected but again we use a local service bus not a specific school bus so again shouldn't impact us.

There is also talk of the school week being cut to a 33 period week (from 35 periods) – this could save the authority ¼ million. (Gordon not sure how this would work).

Conserves salaries are being looked at but again this would not affect KHS.

Any money saved is normally carried over to the following year this may be taken back if not used.

Music is an area that could affect the school – possibility that parents may be asked to contribute towards these lessons.

Schools may be penalised for over spending.

Are main area to be affected would be the Primary School hours being cut (supply teachers may be made redundant) – would affect our PE teacher.

Possibly renegotiating contracts with school such as ours (PPP school building) – but this would take years.

All out of hours usage of school would be charged for.

None of these ideas are definite just possibilities at the moment.

AOCB – None

Correspondence - None

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 7th January - Leven Centre, Kinlochleven