

Kinlochleven High School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held in Ballachulish on 4th June 2014 @8pm

Present – SB, MMc, CMc, FD, GM, EB, GM, FB

Apologies – MF, MH, AB, BG, MC

Minutes from last meeting and matters arising – With regards to the bus being late and being advised not to stir it as the children could lose the service to Duror. Andrew Baxter has made it clear that the service will not be in jeopardy and to complain if it is late. Saying that the lateness does seem to have improved however Gordon will monitor the situation.

Study leave this year happened as normal however in future years the school are unsure what Highland Council wish to do about it (the new National 4s do not have exams and therefore quite a few children may only have 1 or 2 exams so the full study leave seem excessive). They may just allow a child to take off the day before an exam and the exam day – the councils view was that would not give the child time to revise fully. Gordon will update us as he finds out any details himself. For those with no or few exams work experience may be an option.

Hydro Scheme – Very little to update the council. Although one survey has now been completed satisfactorily a Peat land survey is now required. It is also hoped that a Hydro Exclusive Manager will be appointed.

Thoughts on meeting next week with Norma Young – The general thought was that Highland Council will back down with the 3-18 campus as the Primary School still seem to be unhappy with it. Although the PSHT position was advertised only 1 applicant applied, who turned out to be unsuitable. The Primary School are wanting a separate meeting next week which does not send out the signal that they are willing to work with us. Taking this into account after a long discussion it was felt that whatever happened next week we wanted assurances that either we would put out an application for either a 3-18 Head or a High School Head teacher but that we were not willing to delay any longer.

Head Teachers Report – Staffing is looking healthy at the moment with both Gordon's and Gills subjects being covered (this was noted to be a huge improvement from last time). Mr Heron (History) is now permanent; we have an extra English teacher (at no expense to the school) and a new PE probationer starting in summer. The only possible unset to this could be we have no Computing teacher after the summer.

The school have just started the new Curriculum and seems to be working with a few hiccups to be sorted (to be expected after sure a big change). Gordon handed out the curriculum timetable in a table form which made it very easy to understand the structure.

OYT and Outward Bound were very much enjoyed by everyone.

The S2 activities week (same as OYT and OB) will be reviewed for next year to assess the educational value and cost etc.

Leadership through Adventure – a 3 day course – which the school will fund is being looked at. At the end of this the child gains an “AZDAN” award. It is a pilot scheme which we hope to send the 6th formers on. (The PTFF applied for funds for this trip).

The “Insight” package for monitoring school attainment now takes into account non-academic awards such as ASDAN.

The 4 PTs were sent on a 2 day training course to be trained on Coaching and Mentoring techniques to help them in their annual review of staff.

AOCB –Correspondence – On the night we were advised that Moira would have to step down as Vice Chair however Stewart has spoken to her and she is willing to remain for another year or so.

Date of next meeting – 21st August in the School at 8pm. This will be the AGM