

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF TRA PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON January 22nd 2015 AT 6.45PM

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Iain Morrison (Chair) Fiona Robertson (Vice Chair) Donald Beaton (Treasurer) Peter McIntyre (Secretary) Wim Chalmet (Acting Rector) Sandy McGregor (Interim Depute Rector) Connie Farrell (Interim Depute Rector) George Trimble (Acting Depute Rector) Michael Bremner (School Captain) Jason Coetzee (School Captain)														
	<table><tr><td>Ann Allan</td><td>John Scott</td></tr><tr><td>Rosslyn Borland</td><td>Alison Scott</td></tr><tr><td>Myra Campbell</td><td>Jane Ross</td></tr><tr><td>Amanda Fulton</td><td>Dave Mercer</td></tr><tr><td>Kirsty Gordon</td><td>John Macleod</td></tr><tr><td>Laura Grant</td><td>Norman Laing</td></tr><tr><td>Nigel Jones</td><td>Donna Laing</td></tr></table>	Ann Allan	John Scott	Rosslyn Borland	Alison Scott	Myra Campbell	Jane Ross	Amanda Fulton	Dave Mercer	Kirsty Gordon	John Macleod	Laura Grant	Norman Laing	Nigel Jones	Donna Laing
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ITEM	ACTION
<b>1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>	
IM welcomed everyone to the meeting and all present introduced themselves and their connections to the school. Apologies were received from Alison Holden, Jennifer Munro, Roy Munro, Ella McIntyre, Ros Oliver-Jones, Nina Westwater, Duncan and Jane Marie MacGillivray.	
<b>2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b>	
The following corrections were made to the minutes: Donald Beaton was listed twice in the attendees list. The following were added as having attended the meeting: Add Ena Beaton and Roy MunroThe Minutes were then approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<b>Matters Arising / Action Points</b>	
Concern was expressed with the current system of bad weather announcements. The system was not working as well as it should. For example on the last day the school was closed Radio Highland was saying it was open. In addition the Highland Council website was down and information from Inverness Colleges suffered from a bad phone line.	
WTC went through the procedure for school closure – All Head Teachers are instructed to contact the Highland Council Service centre in the events of school closure. The Service Centre will then put the information on the HC website and inform local radio stations.	
The school updates the phone messages on school closure information line. On top of the above Highland Council procedures the school updates the TRA Facebook/twitter page as soon as possible.	

Parents/pupils are asked not to phone the school to check closure!

In addition a phone message is put on the Highland Council School Closure Information line – 0800-564-2272.

- IM was asked at the last meeting to write to Jim Steven regarding the lack of teachers in certain subjects. So far he has had no response. He will follow up.

IM

There were no other matters arising.

### **3 TREASURER'S REPORT**

DB indicated that there was very little movement since the last meeting. One cheque for £5 was cashed and there was 10p interest added to the Bank account.

### **4 UPDATE FROM FUNDRAISING GROUP**

The group are looking at raising money for a structured coaching programme for the football team.

They are looking at various ways to raise money – collecting tins; sale of ink cartridges and soft drink cans.

A question was asked if there was a place to store items at school. This seems possible. WTC will investigate.

The offer by Do Soccer Ltd to take over training for a fee (including girls team) was discussed. Currently there are no funds for this.

One alternative is to encourage senior pupils to get their coaching certificates. This could be funded and then they can coach soccer players.

Rosslyn welcomes any bright ideas for fund raising – auction? Quiz Night?

The school was invited to say what they need funds to be raised for. Then a Wish list could go to external Funding bodies.

### **5 CURRICULAR STRUCTURE – George Trimble**

Mr Trimble led us through a presentation on the school's Curriculum Review. This is one of the key school improvement priorities for this session. He outlined the process and focused on two areas – the timetable and 'the what and how' of our curriculum offerings. Details of the presentation are in Appendix 1 at the end of these minutes.

There was a request from the floor that there be some teaching on How to Study. It was noted that if we move from a 30 to a 33 period week then there would be 3 extra periods for such teaching.

IM asked for 3-4 parent volunteers to help with this. Anyone interested should

contact the Parent Council. IM would circulate the request to all parents and carers.

IM

## **6 OPEN FORUM Q&A**

- Study leave – we are waiting for a final decision from Jim Steven early February. N4 students don't have exams so don't need study leave. Study leave is valued. Also good to have revision classes with teachers.
- Gritting school bus runs – Scotsburn route not well gritted. School has no control over gritting. Problem is that roads need a heavier traffic flow (20 cars minimum) for gritting to take effect.
- School Trips – Cost and time. Can a timetable of proposed trips be made a year in advance so pupils and parents can plan? No trouble with longstanding trips – Paris trip; Battlefields trip. Problem with new opportunities. ie Ski Trip In Jan 2016. Difficulty in guaranteeing staff cover for a trip a year ahead
- School Stage Curtains in hall - Will they go back up?  
They were taken down after a fire risk assessment. They were flammable and would give off toxic fumes. The Authority is looking to replace them or to make them flame retardant

## **7 SCHOOL CAPTAINS' REPORT**

Michael Bremner and Jason Coetzee gave an update of activities since the last meeting.

The S2 YPI event raised awareness for charities.

There were several trips including:

20 pupils went on a trip to Edinburgh to see the musical Wicked.

The Advanced Higher Maths group went to Math camp

There was a Higher Biology trip to Aberdeen

And the S1 / S6 Buddy trip to Inverness for rollerball.

The Senior and Junior Christmas dances went well. The fact that the band was composed of pupils and former and present staff added to both occasions.

There was also an open awareness evening about the new Curriculum for Excellence. This included a guided tour of the school.

S6 pupils are currently working on their year book.

There is an upcoming S3 parent / teachers meeting on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.

And pupils are also preparing for the Prelim exams coming at the beginning of February.

## **8 RECTOR'S REPORT**

WTC gave a full and detailed account of recent and current developments at the school. These included:

- The Highland Region website ([www.highland.gov.uk/tainschool](http://www.highland.gov.uk/tainschool)) has the latest report on the 3-18 school project. There are no substantive changes to the plans. Comments are welcome until 10th February.
- Staffing appointments: –

Faculty Leader Art and Design, PE and Music - Les Mackay  
English - Sharon Clapton  
Computing – Rosie Mackenzie  
The above have a fixed contract through to July.

A permanent English post is currently being advertised. Also there is an advert for an Acting Principal Teacher.

- The last Parents' Awareness Evening had a good turnout and was well received. Suggestions are invited for inclusion in the next year's programme.
- Dates for HMIE next inspection. This will be held on two days - Thu 30th April and Fri 1st May. It will be composed of one Chief Inspector with a team of up to four others. The Team is Authority led, by the Quality Improvement Manager Donald Patterson. There will be an invitation for parent involvement. More details will be available by our next PC meeting.

#### **9 SMT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR 15-16**

An Advert for the position of Head teacher will be prepared after the February holiday. Just before the Easter Break there could be interviews for candidates.

#### **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

#### **11 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 26th March 2015 - 6.45pm

Thursday 28th May 2015 - 6.45pm

## APPENDIX 1

### Curriculum Review Background and Principles – George Trimble

Alongside Tracking and Monitoring and Self- Evaluation, this is one of the key school improvement priorities for this session.

Our curriculum is defined as all planned learning experiences for our pupils – within, without and beyond the classroom.

Our responsibility: to create articulated learning pathways for all our pupils.

Our concern: to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all our pupils. We are a comprehensive and an inclusive school.

It is important that we review our provision.

At whatever stage a pupil leaves us, our focus is to ensure he or she moves on to a positive destination – in further study, training or employment.

The implications of the Wood Report, with its emphasis on vocational training, need to be borne in mind.

Genuine engagement – with all staff, with pupils and with parents, needs to occur.

Against a backdrop of straitened finances: how do we ensure that, whatever curriculum we deliver, meets the above key principles? This is the challenge.

Where are we?

☐ We have a curriculum which has sought to offer a breadth of learning experiences; one which offers breadth, challenge, enjoyment and relevance.

☐ We offer a Broad General Education to our pupils from S1-S3. In this time they engage in and progress through a series of Experiences and Outcomes commenced in primary school.

☐ In the final year of BGE, we offer an element of personalisation and of choice.

☐ Our pupils move on to the Senior Phase, entering and leaving at a time and at a level which matches and addresses their specific needs, aspirations and abilities.

☐ In a high number of cases, those who do leave us move on to what is deemed a positive destination.

☐ We currently engage with a number of partners in attempting to meet these needs in the senior school.

### The Review

I'm currently organising groups of staff and pupils to engage specifically on how we can improve progress our curriculum.

Parents will be invited to engage in this process.

Note: we are required to incorporate Enhanced Personal Support for all our pupils.

Two areas we need to reflect upon;

1. The timing of the school week / day.

- ☐ A symmetric 30 period week or asymmetric 33 period week?

Bus contracts!

- ☐ It's likely that, for the 2015-2016 sessions, we will remain with a 30 period 'symmetric' week but almost inevitable that we move to a 33 pw in the 2016-17 session.

- ☐ Impact upon parents of changes to the school day / week.

2. What we offer and how we offer our curriculum.

- ☐ A continued BGE with an element of personalisation.

- ☐ Do we continue to have a separate S4 and S5/ S6?

- ☐ Or do we go for an integrated S4 – S6 Senior Phase?

- ☐ Pupils from all three year groups attending the same class.

- ☐ Subjects appearing more than once on pupils' option forms.

- ☐ How could our curriculum be developed through enhanced engagement with a range of partners?

- ☐ VPP courses in a range of subjects available to a range of pupils.

- ☐ YASS OU modules. Scholar. Open Learning.

- ☐ Work Related Learning opportunities.

- ☐ National Progression Awards – in for example, Business Education and Digital Media.

- ☐ Foundation Apprentices scheme.

- ☐ Employability courses run in conjunction with partners

Our Curriculum Review: a challenge – but an opportunity to meet the needs of all our pupils.