

Parent Council Conference

Saturday 2nd November 2013

Charleston Academy, Inverness

Attendees

Jim Steven – Head of Education, Highland Council

Yvonne Cairns - ICT in Schools Development Officer, Highland Council

Victoria Robertson – Graduate Information Officer, Highland Council

Eddie Broadley – Senior Education Officer, Education Scotland

Lorraine Sanda – Parental Involvement Coordinator, Scottish Government

Iain Ellis – Chair of National Parent Forum of Scotland

Bill Hall – Highland Representative for National Parent Forum of Scotland

Representatives from the following Parent Councils:

- Bonar Bridge
- Gairloch Primary School
- Lochaber High School
- Nairn Academy
- Dunvegan Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary
- Central Primary School
- Muirtown Primary
- Auldearn Primary
- Locharhill Primary
- Millbank Primary School,
Nairn
- Kiltarn Primary
- Kilchuimen Primary School &
Kilchuimen Academy
- Merkinch Primary School
- Tarradale Primary
- Golspie High School
- Inshes Primary School
- Plockton High
- Pulteneytown Academy
Primary
- Portree Primary School
- Alness
- Bishop Eden's Primary
School
- Invergordon Academy
- Farr Primary School
- Mallaig High School
- Knockbreck Primary
- Inverness Royal Academy
- Newtonmore Primary School
- Culloden Academy
- Grantown Grammar School
- Kyle Primary School
- Charleston Academy
- Resolis Primary School
- Dochgarroch Primary School
- Cradlehall Primary School
- Portree High School
- Park Primary
- Millburn Academy
- Resolis Primary School
- Balloch Primary
- North Kessock Primary
School

Bill Hall from Kilchuimen and Kath Black from Inverness Royal Academy are the Highland Representatives for the National Parent Forum of Scotland.

Bill shared his email address on the day with those in attendance and is happy for this to be shared with all Parent Council members: bill@albaairenergy.co.uk

During the discussions throughout the day the following points were raised by Parent Council Representatives:

- ❖ More support from Highland Council to help Parent Councils communicate with one another and the parent forum:
 - They would like a mechanism for getting in touch with other Parent Councils.
 - They would like to be able to share email addresses more easily with each other, especially within in ASGs.
 - Guidance on how best they can engage with parents
 - They would like to have a forum where they can discuss issues, share good practice and easily gain access to information from the authority.

- ❖ Developing the relationship between the authority and Parent Councils:
 - They would like the Highland Council to engage and consult with them more frequently and more often.
 - They would like the opportunity to meet with Senior Management and be given notice on any plans which the council are considering i.e. cuts, provision of teaching.
 - They would like to set up a sub group which will have the opportunity to influence decisions.
 - A parent council representative sitting on the Children and Adult Services committee was discussed. Jim explained that this might not be the correct forum as at this stage it is more difficult to influence any decisions.

- ❖ A few representatives raised the question about who they should contact with queries, advice etc. now that Moira McCarrell has retired. Jim advised that for the time being he is happy to receive any emails: jim.steven@highland.gov.uk

- ❖ Future events were discussed and the following points raised:
 - It would be beneficial for the conference to run twice a year rather than once.
 - Workshops should be split into two; one for new chairs where they can get some support and guidance and a second for more experienced chairs.
 - More input into agenda items, a survey being sent out prior to an event was suggested.

- ❖ Those who attended provided their email addresses and are happy for these to be shared with those could not attend the conference.

- ❖ Representatives requested that the information gathered from the workshops and the PowerPoint be circulated around all parent council members including those who were unable to attend.