

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Minute/Note of Meeting	TITLE	Parent Council Meeting		
	DATE	21 March 2016	TIME	6.15pm
	VENUE	Rm 34		
	DISTRIBUTION			

Present:	Miller MacDonald, Linda Johnson, George McGee, Catherine Ferguson, Ann MacDonald, Michelle Gray, Liz Dorrian, Maggie Howarth.
Apologies:	Kenny MacDonald, Beatrix Wood, Mairi Nash, Anne Bird, Peter Bird, Libby Patterson.
Absent:	

Agenda Item		Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1	Previous Minutes	Previous minutes agreed			
2	School Security	In view of the tragedy at Cults Academy HT presented an overview of school security outlining the strategy that would be adopted should a pupil be discovered with an offensive weapon. Police Scotland would be contacted immediately, advice taken and the pupil kept in the HT office until the police arrived. Police are also contacted if there are issues concerning drugs or alcohol. HT said if parents or pupils had concerns or information concerning school security, that he could be contacted at any time and that it was important it was widely understood he had an 'open door' policy to any information being given that may help the school prevent or intervene in security issues. PC also suggested that if false rumours were being circulated about incidents in school it would be useful if a letter or email could be sent to put parents' minds at rest. HT said that works had been done to the school so all external doors were locked during the school day.	PC to put out Groupcall that HT can be contacted at any time re concerns or information regarding school security		

3	Change of Bus Timetable	Changes to the bus timetable to be implemented from Friday mean that the North bus would now leave at 5.30pm and the South bus at 5.55pm. Staff were concerned at why these changes were being made and wondered how affected pupils would be supervised during the extra wait, it was also thought that pupils may be less likely to go to supported study if it meant catching a much later bus home. HT said the school had had no involvement in the changes nor had it been notified by any proposals regarding the changes. PC were unsure whether the council or the bus company were responsible for the change but Catherine Ferguson agreed to draft a letter to David Smart and a copy to the Director voicing concerns about the changes and a Groupcall to go out to parents informing them of the change and hopefully provoking a rethink by those responsible for the amendments.	Catherine Ferguson to draft letter to David Smart voicing concerns about change to bus timetable.		
4	New Council Anti-bullying Policy	HT informed PC that Mrs Ferguson of Balivanich Primary School had chaired an anti-bullying working group. A new updated Anti-Bullying Policy has been produced as a guide for staff, pupils, parents and carers (available on the Council website) which documents how to deal with bullying behaviour. HT said that implementation of the revised policy would lead to recording of reports of bullying but the rest was already integrated in school practice. PC discussed the policy on filming pupils and posting on social media and suggested that a disclaimer should be put on tickets to school events informing that films or pictures should not be posted without permission, however HT said it was a difficult situation to monitor.			

5	Head Teacher's Report	<p>Following the 'Ready to Vote' national campaign most eligible pupils have registered to vote.</p> <p>S2 had organized a "Fairtrade Big Breakfast" last Monday 14 March, the morning included live music by some S2 musicians which, it was agreed, had made a great start to a Monday.</p> <p>The Pipe Band, which is quite a young band, on a recent trip to Edinburgh did well gaining 7th place for the pipe band, 5th for the drummers and 3rd for free-style.</p> <p>In the North Scotland Cross Country Over 15's Boys the school had gained 2nd place which was a great achievement given the size of the school.</p> <p>Primary 7 Induction day had gone smoothly and the Transition Team with S5 buddies had gone well.</p> <p>The careers convention which took place in February was a great success.</p> <p>Mr Fraser's STEM group had an enjoyable trip away at the STEM convention in Inverness.</p> <p>S3 and S4 have made their initial draft subject choices and would be interviewed by guidance teachers as would the S5 pupils to check all were happy.</p> <p>CnES need a representative to sit on appeals committee and Libby Patterson, who previously expressed an interest, would be approached to see if she is still interested.</p> <p>A fundraiser concert is planned for June. PC discussed other fundraising ideas and it was agreed that since there was a lot of fundraising currently going on in the Community something like a 100/200 club might prove popular and further discussion was needed on how to set this up.</p>			
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6	AOB Thank you letter	Catherine Ferguson informed Parent Council that she would write a letter of thanks to the current S6 for their assistance throughout the year with refreshments.			
	New Chairperson	Catherine Ferguson reported that by the end of May she would no longer have a child at SL so a new Chair needs to be selected.			
	SQA	Ann MacDonald informed PC she had attended a National Parent Council Forum and asked what exceptional circumstances led to a SQA appeal for a re-mark of an exam paper and how this was invoked. HT said the school would so this by either putting in an 'adverse circumstances claim' if the exam had been taken when the pupil was either sick or bereaved etc. or if there was a large discrepancy between an expected result and the actual mark the school can ask for a recount although it should be understood that the grade could go down as well as up.			
	The Daily Mile	Ann MacDonald wondered if The Daily Mile scheme might be included at SL as it had received excellent feedback. HT said that PE uptake was generally good at SL but further thought should be given to including The Daily Mile for at least one session per week.			
7	Date of Next Meeting	Date of next meeting Monday 23 May 2016 at 6.15pm in Room 34.			