

Thurso High School Parent Council Minutes of the 48th Meeting held on 12 May 2015

THURSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

PRESENT:

Parent Members:

Su Hawes - Chairperson
Alison Reiss - Treasurer
Sandy Cumming
Ron Hibbert
Dave Kerr
Anne Nicoll
Mike Flavell

Co-opted Member:

Trudy Morris

Co-opted Teacher Members:

Pupil Representatives:

In attendance:

Ken Murphy (Head Teacher)

Councillors:

Cllr Gillian Coghill
Cllr Matthew Reiss

1 CHAIRPERSONS OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Susan Hawes welcomed everyone present to the 48th meeting of THS Parent Council.

2 APOLOGIES

Cllrs W Mackay, R Saxon & D Mackay, Meegan Anderson, John McGeachie, Ann Frew, Roxanne Foster & Laura Mennie.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & ACTIONS of the 47th meeting on 3 March 2015

Minutes and Actions adopted and approved by Mrs Hawes and Mr Kerr

4.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) *e.mail*: Sandy Cumming requesting names of parties who use the school minibus.
- (ii) Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd letter re award towards purchase of new equipment for PE Dept (*Attach 1*)

4.2 CORRESPONDENCE SENT

- (i) List compiled of minibus users – e-mails sent requesting letters of support towards new minibus purchase

5 REPORT FROM HEAD TEACHER

Mr Murphy reported to Parent Council that the school roll stands at 780 while we continue to be overstaffed with 54.30fte and 51.87fte entitlement. One of the two vacant posts in Maths has been filled by an appointment from Learning Support. The second posts will hopefully be filled by a Probationer (one has been requested). A Social Subjects teacher has been appointed until timetable change on 2nd June. The vacant Biology post was filled on 16th March but a vacant post still remains in Technical – neither post will be replaced next session. An early retirement request has been accepted for 0.6fte Learning Support on ASN. Two ASN budget vacancies have been advertised as per our entitlement according to staffing formula for Highland Region. There were two applicants for the PT ASN post though one withdrew and the other unsuccessful. As this was the 4th attempt at filling this post, a different model in Enhanced Provision is being implemented where all ASN Teachers will input into the EP curriculum. The 0.5fte English and 0.6fte PE interviews will be held on Wed 13th May. Two probationers are requested for English and Chemistry (both Maternity cover) while the Social Subjects request was withdrawn as English/History fixed term post has been advertised for next session. 0.4fte PT Modern Languages will be advertised with the present PT on a winding-down scheme. The Janitor situation has been resolved with us back to full complement of three.

The new wireless network was put in over the Easter holiday period though there were issues with the A Block which delayed completion. Other maintenance work included new windows installed in the Library, new fire doors by the Canteen back entrance and all funding for the S6 Room has now been received.

6 REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Reiss reported to Parent Council that he has raised the topic of a new school to replace Thurso High with Highland Council, along with Cllr Maxine Smith, leader of SNP group and though in very early stages, he intends to continue chipping away while gathering more evidence for its purpose such as lack of wheelchair access to several departments throughout the school. He also reported that while the consultation period is still ongoing, ward boundaries are likely to see minor changes throughout the year ahead. Cllr Coghill had nothing to report stating that several meetings had been withheld until after the General Election.

7 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES – None present due to SQA Examinations

8 SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 FUNDING GROUP

Mrs Hawes advised Parent Council that the new funding group had successfully acquired financial backing for the upgrade of lining the Games Hall flooring and also £1000 from Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd towards the purchase of equipment for the PE Dept while awaiting news of a further application to Tesco Community Fund and the PTA will make up the shortfall. Mrs Hawes also wished to minute her thanks to Miss Mennie for her quick response of departmental needs. It was noted that the Dounreay Communities Fund covers many projects during each financial year and the Baillie Wind Farm was another avenue to keep in reserve. Mr Sandy Cumming suggested that a 'wish list' could be created by the school and presented to the Parent Council to select in order of priority, one example being Hall requirements with the school being seen to make their contribution raising funds by a sponsored walk, as an example.

8.2 SUPPORTED STUDY PROGRAMME

In the absence of Miss Roxanne Foster, Ms Trudy Morris of the Chamber of Commerce addressed the issue of funding options for this programme requesting Miss Foster contact her with a view to arrangements for the following session 2015/2016

Action: Miss Foster to liaise with Ms Morris

8.3 NEW MINIBUS

With regard to the possibility of purchasing a new school minibus Cllr Reiss and Mr Cumming are in the process of completing a Caithness and North Sutherland Application Form gathering letters of support from various quarters including Miss Anne Dunnett, Lord Lieutenant of Caithness, Dr Alison Brooks, Acting Lord Lieutenant, Community Councils as well as an official confirmation of support from Thurso High School Parent Council highlighting the various organisations within the school who use the minibus regularly throughout the school year.

8.4 CHARITABLE STATUS

Mr Mike Flavell reported to Parent Council that he had not had any response from Mr Niall Smith of Caithness Voluntary Group following his presentation to the previous Parent Council meeting but would get in touch with him by the end of the week.

Action: Mr Flavell to contact Mr Niall Smith

8.5 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Jane Young, Careers Coach with Skills Development Scotland would like to come to the next Parent Council Meeting on 16th June to discuss further information with a view to a presentation to all school parents.

Action: Mrs Hawes to contact Jane Young with invitation

9. A.O.C.B.

Mrs Hawes raised the matter of S6 'Muck up Day' stating that since the vandalism of the building appears to have been carried out, in the main, by previous pupils, perhaps the CCTV cameras could be monitored next year. Mr Murphy reported that otherwise the day was in good spirit.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Work Experience
- Standards & Quality Report
- S5 – New student recruits

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

**Next Parent Council Meeting : Tuesday 16th June 2015
(Please note change of date)**

Minutes prepared by: Moira Horne
Approved by: Su Hawes

Date : 13th May 2015
Date : 17th May 2015

