

THURSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

PRESENT:

Parent Members:
Su Hawes (Chair)
Sandy Cumming (vice Chair)
Alison Reiss (Treasurer)
Anne Nicoll
Ron Hibbert
Neil MacDonald

Co-opted Member:

Co-opted Teacher Member
Roxanne Foster

Pupil Representatives:

James Doherty

In attendance

Kathryn Mackay (Acting Head Teacher)
Craig Omand (Depute Head)
Barry Northedge (Educ QI Manager)
Councillors:
Cllr M Reiss

Heather Urquhart (PTA)

1 CHAIRPERSONS OPENING REMARKS

Mrs Su Hawes welcomed everyone present to the 52nd meeting of THS Parent Council introducing Mrs Mackay (Acting Head Teacher), Mr Omand (Depute Head) and Mr Northedge (Education Quality Improvement Manager)

2 APOLOGIES

Cllrs W Mackay, D Mackay, R Saxon & G Coghill, Anne Frew, Trudy Morris, Hayley Perrie & Meegan Anderson (S6 representative)

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES & ACTIONS of the 51st meeting on 18 November 2015

Minutes and Actions adopted and approved by Mr S Cumming and Mrs S Hawes

4.1 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED –

4.2 CORRESPONDENCE SENT –

5 REPORT FROM ACTING HEAD TEACHER

(Please see Attachment 1)

6 REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Reiss advised Parent Council that following recent meetings regarding budgetary matters, it would seem that the deficit is much worse than was expected in late December leading to a full review of the whole Council now getting under way. At the time of this meeting the Voluntary Redundancy scheme had over 500 applicants with the closing date on Friday 29th January 2016. Teacher recruitment will be based on a case by case study with the potential for a further 1% teacher cut though all Councillors are in agreement in trying to protect education as much as possible. From a Budget Group of four Councillors Cllr Reiss stated that we are well represented in having two Councillors from Caithness.

7 PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

James Doherty raised the matter of black out blinds brought to the table at the last meeting for some Science Dept rooms. Mrs Horne advised Parent Council that the situation had not progressed until it was established which rooms and number of windows involved.

Action: Miss Foster to discuss with the Science Department Faculty Head Teacher before follow up

James also questioned a previous request to obtain funding for the tuning of pianos in the Music Dept. Mrs Hawes advised that formal documentation for the funding process is now in place and available from the school office.

Action: Mrs Mackay to discuss with the Music Department Principal Teacher

8 SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Update on new minibus

Cllr Reiss advised Parent Council that the delivery date for the new School minibus was now scheduled to be the beginning of March with the presentation becoming a media event with newspaper coverage. With the later delivery there were concerns that the allocated funding may be in jeopardy with regard to closing dates but all sources have confirmed no issue.

8.2 PTA Numbers Club

Mrs H Urquhart, Secretary of Parent Teacher Association reported to Parent Council that the PTA had received assistance from two admin staff from the High School to help resolve administrative issues raised at their AGM. She confirmed that the responsibility for running the Numbers Club remained with the PTA who also operate the relevant Bank Account. Monthly draws are taking place and new members have been processed ensuring enough income to cover prizes and stay within small lotteries rules on disbursing funds. The funds raised through the Numbers Club are used to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the High School mini bus which is fundamental to the school enabling pupils to participate in extra curricular activities around the Highland Region and beyond. Parent Council members agreed that the running of the Numbers Club should remain with the PTA with continued admin support from the school.

8.3 Update on sub Funding Group

Mrs Hawes explained the purpose of the sub Funding Group made up of Chairperson, Treasurer, parent members and co-opted Teacher member, Miss Foster, who collates details from departments in the school requesting funding for various materials or projects. The sub-committee created an official funding request document with set procedures to follow, now available from the school office.

PTA representative, Mrs Urquhart, advised Parent Council that fundraising is the key role of the PTA and they too have an application document. Consequently Mr Cumming suggested that he and Mrs Urquhart should meet to discuss funding links between the PTA & PC.

Action: Mr Cumming to organise meeting with PTA Secretary, Mrs Urquhart

9. CHANGE OF OFFICE

Having come to the end of her role as Chairperson of the Parent Council, Mrs Hawes thanked everyone for the help and support she had received since taking over from Mr John Firth in September 2013. She felt a lot of issues had been addressed and appreciated the contributions made by all members of the Parent Council.

Incoming Chairman, Mr Sandy Cumming, thanked Mrs Hawes for the hard work and effort she had put in to carry forward the Parent Council to where it is today and proceeded to present her with a card and gift token on behalf of the members. The Senior Management Team had presented Mrs Hawes with a bouquet of flowers earlier. Mr Cumming will now chair the next meeting of THS PC on Tuesday 1st March 2016 with Mr Hibbert as Vice Chair.

10. Agenda Items for forthcoming meetings:

- Charitable Status review
- Update from Trudy Morris re Developing the Young Workforce

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Next Parent Council Meeting : – Tuesday 1st March 2016

Minutes prepared by: Moira Horne Date : 29th January 2016
Approved by: Sandy Cumming Date : 9th February 2016