

Rockfield Parent Teacher Association (Parent Council) Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2015
7.30pm – 8.45pm

MINUTES

Attendance: Fiona Cowan, Sandra Bruce, Mike Bruce, Susannah Hughes, Jennifer Graham, Annmarie Campbell, Lindsay Maclean, Leanne Mackay, Lorna Stewart, Donna MacInnes, Linda MacGregor, Karen Cox, Kirsteen Binnie, Morven Gage, Catriona Garvin, Caroline Fothergill

1. Apologies Claire wilding, Neil Campbell, Laura MacDonald, Isobel Gibson, Elspeth MacDonald

2. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Accuracy Proposed Susannah Hughes, Seconded Leanne MacKay
- b. Matters arising from Action points and not covered by Agenda

Traffic and Transport

Caroline relayed information from John Cowden that line of sight to zebra crossing when exiting school is 30m (photo provided). Issue regarded as one of driver behaviour rather than fault in lay out of crossing or access.

There has been one further report of dangerous driving, again a car overtaking another vehicle parked close to the crossing. CF informed of incident by Head Teacher St Columba's. Police were notified and are taking action.

MITIE offered to produce leaflets reminding drivers to take care on campus?

MK reported negative response to PTA request for crossing patrol at McCaigs Rd (letter available).

Pedestrian crossing light timings still not correct. **Action CF to pursue again with Ryan McGlynn.**

Attendance certificates CF has had some discussion with staff on attendance certificates, with mixed opinions in response. **Action CF Issue to be revisited at Easter.**

CF has mentioned matter of meal choices with head of catering. Staffing levels and queueing remain a concern and are being reviewed.

Main Agenda Items

3. Kirsteen Binnie reported 'AB PACC' has been formed, Argyll and Bute Parents Against Council Cuts. Council have included a 45% cut to ASN budget and 20% to budget for both Pupil Support Assistant and Classroom Assistants to list of potential cuts or Service Choices. For last 3 to 4 weeks AB PACC has been lobbying to have cuts to ASN removed from the list. However the Council has now put all proposed cuts to Consultation. KB made point that parents are proud of the current support and quality of education and any cuts are unacceptable and will result in children failing to reach their potential. Cuts will also have a serious impact on mainstream children who have support needs. KB asked what Parent Council could do to support opposition to cuts. CF listed the impacts the additional proposed cuts to Education would have and how essential the Pupil Support and Classroom Assistants roles are to the well being of pupils as well as to their educational needs. Fiona Cowan provided an AB PACC flier to raise awareness of issue. KB and CF stated the most important thing parents can do is to respond to the on line Consultation and to complete the specific comments box also.

Action: KB will draft, on behalf of Parent Council a) a letter to parents for a bag drop, urging them to complete the on line Consultation b) same to go out electronically to email list parent forum c) letter from PC to Council d) letter from Parent Council to Oban Times.

4. Halloween Disco: The Chair would like thanks recorded via the minute for all the staff and parents who helped to organise and volunteered at the Halloween Disco. Minor issues were noted and we will re-visit these issues during our planning before the next Hallowe'en party.

- **Action: PTA and staff will develop a policy for next disco re parent attendance, to accommodate parents wishing to see kids but also aiming to avoid long queues and a bottleneck in the corridor. P1 – P4s should leave hall via door nearest kitchen.**

Action organisers to enforce / remind good parking rules for parents prior to summer disco. Also make sure Janitors put out cones.

- **Action all: should we have next disco on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday to allow regular swimmers to attend? (discuss when arranging date next term)**

5. Organisation of Holly tea discussed briefly, tbc via email and face to face.

6. Website – PTA pages still blank. PTA keen to have more information included on website, alongside the various other ways of communicating with parents. Staffing is tight at the moment due to unforeseeable illness but HT will ask if someone in office can help. **Action CF to ask Carol.**

7. PTA will transfer £1300 funds to school for use in classrooms and £350 for Christmas presents from all P1 – P3(?). What PTA spends its monies on to be included in Christmas Newsletter.

8. Head Teachers report given

9. Parent comments / concerns:

- Mod: MG requested School to thank Mod Academy for their support. **Action MG and CF**
- School Photos: Photo week. Next year it will be helpful to parents if the photographer can give specific times as to when children will be photographed.
- Minimising waste: request from parent to remember to use 'eldest in school only' when sending home information.
- Facebook: **CF** to consider having a trial period for a facebook page where only the school can post items.
- Parents request an opportunity to see their children in school at Christmas time, even if it is something simple they perform / sing / sing-together. HT said this was an item that she will review for next Christmas
- 10. AOCB – request from Comann nam Parant for a letter from PC to support their initiative to move the Gaelic unit to a separate site. This would be a major long-term project and funded by Scottish Government not Argyll and Bute. PTA/PC were generally supportive but felt the need to consider if there are any unforeseen negative impacts on Rockfield mainstream of the Gaelic unit moving out. **ACTION MK to ask Claire Wilding for some more information.**

Date for Next Meeting: last Weds in January (no December meeting).