

NEWBIGGING PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 AT 6.45PM

Present: Gillian Alcorn, Alistair Crozier, Paul Donaldson, Kathryn Foot, Diane Melvin, Lynsey Milne, Craig Nugent, Jill Ness, Cate Ritchie, Lorna Rogers, Lorraine Wakefield, Lesley Milloy, Anne Bruce

Apologies: Ashley Thomson

A brief meeting followed on from the AGM:

Halloween Disco

It was agreed that a fancy dress disco would be held on Tuesday 29th October to allow more staff to attend. The event will be from 6.30-8.00pm in the hall and there will be a £1/child charge to cover juice and crisps. Any adults wishing to stay should come in fancy dress. Kathryn will arrange to get lights/speakers etc, and Parent Council members will arrive at 6pm to decorate the hall. Anne to organise let.

Parent Council/
Anne

Photographer

The father of a former parent is still happy to take the children's photographs instead of Tempest. School to organise.

Lesley/Anne

Cookbook

The children have already provided recipes for this fundraiser through their homework last session. The nursery will be invited to draw pictures to be incorporated. Anne to email parents for more recipes.

Anne

Golf

The PVG for the golf professional is still not through. Anne to query with Angus Council.

Anne

Nursery

Lesley told the meeting that the new Senior Early Years Practitioner (Janette Henderson) had settled in well. We also have a student (Susan Fenton) in the nursery on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. Lesley advised that there will be some disruption to the nursery as we are due to get new windows installed in the nursery and school hall. The work will be carried out over a 4 week period commencing 30th September. To minimise disruption Lesley is looking into the possibility of the nursery moving to Monikie School's nursery, with a one day transition in Miss Duffus's P1/3 class. Lesley will be able to transport the children and Kate to Monikie each day.

Lesley

The main building is also due to get painted externally during the October holidays.

Wish List

Lesley was asked for a wish list that the Parent Council would be able to help with. She outlined an application that the school is in the process of preparing for funding to get games painted on the playground as well as to purchase basketball stands. Paul Donaldson advised that Angus Council had promised to replace the netball markings that were removed when the playground was resurfaced. Anne to chase up. Lesley advised that she will let the Council know of a wish list.

Lesley

Anne

Lesley Milloy

Lesley told the meeting that she was happy to be at Newbigging School, and talked of the importance of working with parents and the value of everyone helping out in a small school setting, as well as the importance of parental support in creating a positive school ethos. She felt she had been made very welcome and that the children were fantastic.

Diane asked if a timetable could be made available to parents. This was agreed to, although Lesley advised that her timetable is flexible due to meetings etc which may arise.

Lesley

Lesley then spoke about the consultation exercise she carried when she first started at Newbigging. One topic which cropped up in the questionnaires was communication. Lesley will work to improve on this. The overall feedback from the children and parents indicates that people feel very positively about the school. All available dates will go into the next newsletter.

Calendar

The possibility of a calendar being produced with photos/birthdays on it was raised, and it was felt this would be a good fundraiser. Gillian advised that her husband (Murray's dad) is a photographer who may be able to help with this.

School Roll

The subject of children leaving was raised. The main reason given by parents is that there is not enough support teaching or that there are not enough children of the same age due to the small roll. Diane felt that her oldest son (now in 1st year of secondary school) received a first class education at Newbigging and this has stood him in good stead at secondary school. Alistair mentioned the drop in teacher numbers (Newbigging has lost one day's support). Initially it had been suggested that we would be getting a Depute Head, this was then changed to a Principal Teacher. Lesley told the meeting that Angus Council is carrying out a job sizing exercise that that we should hear the results of that soon.

Monikie Primary School

There are plans to share more activities with Monikie School, eg band practice. Lesley is willing to transport children from Newbigging to Monikie

School for band practice on Thursday lunchtimes. It was agreed that more activities between the schools to help the children get to know each other better would be a good idea.

Monikie Park

Lesley told the meeting that only 4 families had responded to the Monikie Park Outdoor Activities programme. It is hoped that children will be given the opportunity again in the spring, with parents being given more time to pay it up.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th November at 6.15pm.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.30pm.