

MINUTES OF LANGHOLM ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 10th January 2011

Present: Emma Neil - Head teacher
Anthony Lane - Chair
Archie Hyslop - Secretary
Christine Calvert - Asst. Treasurer
Jackie Fletcher, Margo Henry, Shirley Ritchie

Apologies: Diane Hay, Jacqui Graham

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved to go on the web.

Matters arising – None

School Report – The tracking and monitoring has now come online. Each teacher tracks several pupils so all are checked. This system is especially important for 5th years as it gives an early warning of any problems. All teachers report that the tracking system is working well. Any problems would be highlighted on an R1 form. Parents may, depending on the problem, need to be involved but would be given a copy of the form in any case. If the problem still exists and there is concern it would be followed up by 2 letters. This will give parents a greater understanding of how the pupils are progressing. The council meeting regarding budget cuts will be held on the 10th February and this will clarify the situation about teacher/staffing levels and thereafter letters would go to individuals who had applied for early retirement. Ms Neil also advised that the school roll would reduce from the present 300 to approximately 200 by 2013. Difficulty with lower numbers would require new strategies to enable all subjects to be taught. She had developed a new strategy plan which would be implemented with the current S1 intake and this would work through the school as they progressed. She intends to hold a meeting with current S1 parents prior to the February inset holiday. Ms Neil advised that the meeting regarding the new Primary School would be held on Thursday 13th January in the Primary School at 6.30pm. Cllr. Male, Gail McGregor (budget cuts) and Lauren Foss (property) would be in attendance. Emma had no further details regarding how budget cuts would affect our school.

Webpage - Anthony had prepared a webpage with items to be included. Emma will speak to Gareth Drummond who will organise a link from the school website.

Social networking – We discussed concerns about social networking and agreed it was difficult to limit use/abuse without getting parents actively involved.

Cheque book - It was agreed that we proceed with the cheque book style slips. Emma will obtain the price for printing from the Council run printing dept. Anthony would investigate the cost of fridge magnets. It was proposed that the costs would be sponsored by the Parent Council.

Date of next meetings – **Monday 14th February 6.30pm**
Monday 28th March 6.30pm