

MINUTES OF LANGHOLM ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 5th September 2011

Present: Emma Neil - Head Teacher
Anthony Lane - Chair
Archie Hyslop - Secretary
Jacqui Graham - Treasurer
Christine Calvert - Asst. Treasurer
Shirley Ritchie, Diane Hay, Margo Henry,
Maureen Smyth, Beverley Steele

Apologies: Cllr. Denis Male

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

Matters arising – Anthony reported that there had been a good response at the Parents evening with 17 people showing an interest in assisting the PC. Chequebooks were being issued to S1 pupils and existing parents are using the books and Emma advised that replacements have been requested. The Celebration of Success had gone well but it is proposed to use mikes next year as some people at the back of the hall could not hear properly. Progress has been made on the calendar and David Proudfoot has involved pupils in painting local scenes. It was proposed that this could be marketed for Christmas. It is intended to list all the school holiday dates on it. Internet Safety evening – unfortunately not a lot of people had turned up. It was felt the value of the evening was that in a fast changing environment it kept people up to date with the latest developments. Regarding GLOW Roger Hill has taken over from John Tait. Emma has a meeting on the 14th September and will get the up to date information about the system. Gareth Drummond will be able to add any details to the school website that Anthony requires. Emma stated that mobile phones are banned in class and if a pupil is found using one, teachers have the authority to remove them

School Report – Emma reported that all new staff is in position and all appointments are working out. The new intake has had a positive effect which is good for morale. She presented the stats for the exam results which were satisfactory and above the D&G average. It had been a good year for results. Homework policy- Emma will provide more information at the next meeting.

Finance report – The books are being audited at the moment. The PC allowance has been reduced considerably to £250 plus 20p per pupil which equates to approx. £310. This will have an impact on the funding we will be able to give towards the book tokens for the prize giving. Emma indicated that the school may be able to make up the shortfall for prizes. In view of funding we discussed if we could still afford to pay the insurance premium which is approx. a third of total funding. It was agreed that while this is expensive it is necessary.

AGM – This will be held on 3rd October at 7pm and all parents will be advised by group call.

AOCB – Bring a Parent to school will be held on Thursday 22nd September. Maureen agreed to attend and give out leaflets with details of the AGM. It is intended to hold a Parent Forum twice a year to obtain feedback. The New Primary Building – the Music dept will stay in the same position. The new kitchen will be behind the photocopy room area. The school hall will be used as a dining room. We received a letter from Langholm Academy School Show 2011 Committee requesting assistance with funding. Due to funding constraints we will be unable to oblige. There will be no S1 residential but the pupils will have several days away organised. Beverley raised the question of the school bus stopping at the Newcastleton end of Rowanburn and thought this was a dangerous place due to the speed the timber wagons come round the corner. It was agreed that the school would contact Telfords to discuss the matter. Margo raised a concern that the old section of the A7 is not being treated during winter conditions. The off ramp from Auchenrivock is particularly dangerous with a bus full of children. Cllr. Male may be able to give advice.

Date of next meeting – **AGM - Monday 3rd October 7pm**