

**Draft minutes of Gatehouse School Council Meeting held on Monday 8th December 2008
(to be approved at next meeting)**

Present: Mrs A Fairnie, Mrs C Clark, Mrs P Hamilton, Mrs H Innes and Mr H McLean

In attendance:

Parents: Mrs M Burgess

1. Mrs Fairnie thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave a brief summary of the contents of the meeting.
2. Apologies – Mrs S Cain, Cllr Gilroy Cllr Maitland and Mrs S Walker.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved
4. Mrs Innes gave a brief financial report.
5. **Items of business**
 - a. **Curriculum For Excellence**
 - Mr McLean gave a power point presentation on the vision and aims and principles of the Curriculum For Excellence and the reasons that the existing 3 – 5 and 5-14 curriculums are now being updated and broadened to adapt to the changes in society.
Mrs Fairnie offered a DVD on the subject that she had to anyone who is interested in learning more and a website that can be accessed for information – www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk . It was suggested that perhaps it should be put in the newsletter that the DVD is available to any interested parents by contacting Mrs Fairnie.
 - b. **Homework Policy**
 - Mrs Clark presented a draft copy of a new Gatehouse School Homework Policy which aims to inform parents and children of the importance of homework (**Learning at Home**) to a child's education.
 - Outlined in the Policy are the Purpose, Aims and Advice on roles played by teachers, pupils and parents/carers in achieving a successful part of each child's education.

- It was felt by all that the policy was both welcome and very informative and that parents would welcome guidelines on what is expected of them in regard to their child's education.
- Mrs Clark would also like to introduce leaflets offering advice and support in particular areas that could be accessed via the school website or from the school office. This was also welcomed as a great tool for parents.
- Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Burgess both raised concerns on the differences on how the children now do things differently to how we were taught and wondered perhaps if there could be workshops or advice for parents on how to help their child should the need arise. Mr McLean and Mrs Clark said that it may be worth looking into if it is perhaps something that may be useful in the future.
- The new Homework Policy will be available on the website when the draft has been finalised.

c. Dropping off and Collecting Children

- It is a concern that there are a small number of people who are persistently late in dropping off and picking up their children. It causes a great deal of disruption to the class when children are late and it is felt that in the New Year something will have to be put in place to try and tackle this problem. It is also felt that being late to pick up the children is also a problem and a child can be distressed if they feel that they have been forgotten, therefore this problem shall also be addressed in the New Year.

d. New School Secretary

- Mr McLean was delighted to inform us that the new secretary, Mrs Lindsay, would be starting her post tomorrow Tuesday 9th December 2008. We wish her well in her new role within our school.

e. Parent Council Courses

- Mrs Fairnie has details on upcoming courses in February for the parent council and should anyone be interested in attending please contact her. The course will be held in Dumfries on the 25th February 2009.
- Mrs Fairnie also informed us of the National Parent Board Survey that is available to be completed either via the website www.parentzone.gov.org or copies are available from Mrs Fairnie should anyone wish to complete and return.

f. Paired Reading

- Mrs Clark informed everyone that she had a good response to the paired reading and that twelve parents have volunteered to help with this. Six of the parents are already disclosed but the other six require to be disclosed in order to take part. Mrs Clark wondered if the council would be prepared to fund the disclosures. Mr Fairnie felt that the council would be happy to fund this and she would speak to Mrs Innes to put this into place.

Mrs Fairnie took this opportunity to say thank you for the successful 'Aladdin' pantomime trip which it is felt was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th February 2009

The meeting closed at 8.15.