

Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nam Pàrant Ardscoil Ulapul

Parent Council Minutes Wed 22nd Sep 7.15pm, Macphail Centre and by Zoom

1.0 Present and apologies: Seori Burnett (Chair), Suzanne Lewis-Ing, Janis Patterson, Nadine Lunn, Kirsty MacLeod, Susan McSweeney(Zoom), Elaine MacAskill(Zoom), Catherine Mackenzie (Zoom-part of meeting), Andrew Hayton(Zoom), Lorna Howarth Hayton(Zoom), Caroline Boyd (Head Teacher), Jo Stewart (Depute Head), Andrew Inglis (Depute Head).

Apologies: Sue Pomeroy (Treasurer)

2.0 Minutes of meeting 16.06.2021: Proposed by SL, seconded by NL

3.0 Matters arising from previous minutes:

Environmental subgroup – refer to item below

Pupil resilience subgroup – refer to item below

Macphail Centre management group – refer to item below

4.0 Head Teacher's update:

The PC welcomed the new head Caroline Boyd to her first Parent Council meeting.

CB advised on the priorities that are being worked through to help build a new school improvement plan for the next three years. The three headline priorities are:

1 Strengthen our approach to self-evaluation.

2 Improve the consistency and quality of young people's learning experiences.

3 Further develop leadership at all levels

Activities and outcomes are being developed under these priorities to enabled a shared understanding by the staff and pupils of how the school is aiming to build from and improve on existing performance.

Once the new school improvement plan for 2022-2025 has been developed and agreed it will be published on the school website.

SQA

JS gave a detailed presentation on this year's SQA results, highlighting the outcomes in literacy and numeracy and NAT 4, 5, Highers and Advanced Highers in terms of grades and as compared with the national, regional and theoretical comparators.

UHS pupils continue to perform above the national, highland and expected theoretical comparators when the outcomes are adjusted to account for regional and local factors.

The year-on-year trend also continues to be upward.

Staffing

Noelle Pierce has joined the Maths department

Julie Pyke has been made permanent staff in admin

Gus Horsburgh has returned as a new science technician.

Activities

CB was pleased to report that many external activities have now re-started, e.g. DofE Expeditions, Football and UCAS visit with more activities to come.

The lack of transport for extra-curricular activities to support those in areas outside Ullapool was discussed. It was generally agreed that any additional public services were unlikely to be provided. The solution may be car sharing for outlying areas to enable all pupils to access these activities. The parent council may be able to co-ordinate transport with school and parents. **ACTION PC**

5.0 Vision and Values (including dress code)

The idea of what Vision and Values are and what they represent is being discussed between pupils and staff at consultation meetings and through PSE classes. This will develop into a draft set of Visions and Values that the pupils and staff can understand and agree on.

It was agreed that once there is a draft, parents could be included in the consultation so that the wider school community has input.

Dress code

The dress code in the current school prospectus was formulated many years ago, did not involve any of the current pupils and few of the staff and parents. It has generally, on a voluntary basis, not been adhered to latterly.

It was agreed that any discussion/consultation should be a similar process to the Vision and Values consultation and the voice of everyone in the school community should be heard. It was also agreed that this was not an immediate priority and could follow after and perhaps related to the Visions and Values process.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

Update to follow as our treasurer was unable to attend this meeting. **ACTION SP**

7.0 Sub Groups

Following a suggestion from NL it was agreed that there might be more parent engagement if we had the next meeting out of the more formal Macphail Centre environment and

combine the meeting with a social event.

The following subgroups are looking for parental involvement either from within the PC or the wider parent forum as some parents might be interested in particular subjects but not want to make the commitment to evening PC meetings:

Environmental subgroup - covering all areas of sustainability and protection of the environment

Pupil resilience subgroup - covering all areas related to pupil well being

Macphail centre management group - representation on this committee as an opportunity to promote general arts activities.

These groups can be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. SB to start discussion on possible venues and dates. **ACTION SB**

8.0 AOB

Highland Cares

JS highlighted a new initiative distributing funds to youth groups for specific proposals which will become available shortly. Anyone with ideas for activities which may need funding can contact JS at school for more details.

Post meeting note: Robbie McFedries is also involved in Highland Cares and contacted SB regarding an online stakeholder event scheduled for 20th October. Robbie will send details which SB will circulate. **ACTION SB**

Female Toilets

JP raised the issue of the general condition of the female toilets and particularly absence of locks on the ground floor toilets. The school is aware of this issue and the missing locks will be replaced shortly. The general condition of the facilities is also being monitored. **ACTION UHS**

9.0 Date of next meeting: TBA Note: Thursday evenings to be avoided as the pupil reps are involved in other activities.