

**Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nan Parant Ardscoil Ulapul**

Parent Council Minutes Wednesday 27th September 2023 6.30pm, Ullapool High School and through Microsoft Teams

1.0 Present and apologies: Seori Burnett (Chair), Sian Curley (Secretary) Suzanne Lewis-Ing, Nadine Lunn, Andrew Mackay. Gaelan Burnett, Poppy Lewis-Ing, Caroline Boyd (Head Teacher), Jo Stewart (Deputy Head), Andrew Inglis (Teacher Representative), Elaine Macaskill, Andrew Hayton, Janis Patterson (via Teams)
Apologies: Kirsty Macleod, Sue Pomeroy

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting (Thursday 9th March 6pm, by Zoom)

Proposed by Suzanne Lewis-Ing, approved by Seori Burnett

Actions arising:

2.1: Ragbag

Tesco is unable to host a Ragbag.

Action: Janis Patterson to enquire about land by Chinese Takeaway.

2.1 Monday and Wednesday evening pupil transport to Assynt

Caroline Boyd reported that bus service is well used and enables children from outlying areas to participate more fully in extra-curricular activities and supported study. Current funding will end in June and follow-on funding will need to be found if the service is to continue.

Action: Yvonne Boa, UHS and PC to continue to advertise this service so it is as fully used as possible.

2.3 New school logo

Seori Burnett investigated whether this would be possible to quickly commission a new school logo but it was not possible in the time-frame.

Action: closed.

2.4: School transport from Assynt

UHS has raised concerns about the reliability of this service with the transport department. The bus has run a complete service since the last PC meeting.

Action: Assynt parents continue to report to school if bus is delayed or cancelled due to breakdown issues.

3.0 Treasurer's Report

Balance at 3/10/23 £3059.61. Annual accounts have been audited.

4.0 Head Teacher's report

See notes attached for summary of school news.

4.2. Duke of Edinburgh Award provision

Due to staffing changes, UHS is no longer able to offer Duke of Edinburgh Award. Caroline Boyd referred to how Gairloch High School runs the award scheme, with external volunteers and a slimmed-down practice expedition.

Bronze level requires 1 adult with Summer Mountain Leader and Duke of Edinburgh Certification, plus a second adult with Outdoor First Aid. Silver and Bronze levels require 2 adults with Summer Mountain Leader & Duke of Edinburgh certification, plus third person with Outdoor First Aid.

Solutions discussed included running the programme jointly with another local high school; or contracting out to external providers.

Action: UHS to provide PC with an idea of time commitment for to run the scheme, PC to advertise for an external provider. PC could provide some funding towards this.

4.3 Vaping

School staff are concerned by levels of young people vaping in school, particularly in the younger years.

Solutions discussed included older pupils from OUR Ullapool group running anti-vaping assemblies for younger pupils; looking to resources from the 3rd sector.

Andrew Hayton explained that vape packaging will change to look like cigarette packaging in Easter 2024. Parents need to be aware that young people can buy vapes online without age ID.

Action: School nurse will provide information for pupils and parents. OUR Ullapool Health & Wellbeing group to look at putting on information assemblies.

5: School Christmas Event

Dinner-dance is planned for Monday 4th December. Tickets on sale from the school office. Transport will be provided to take pupils from outlying areas home afterwards.

Action: PC to seek parents volunteers to provide puddings.

6.0 AOB

6.1: Join Initiative with Gairloch Parent Council

Seori, Suzanne and Nadine attended a meeting with representatives from Gairloch PC to discuss equity in resourcing for remote rural schools. Second meeting is planned for mid-December. Both groups are looking for data on national comparators for resourcing levels, description of issues facing staff & pupils at their schools; school-specific data on staffing levels, coverage of the curriculum, hybrid learning.

Actions:

- PC/UHS to facilitate focus groups with young people to get pupil voice
- UHS to provide PC with data on curriculum cover, staffing levels
- PS to attend local MSP surgeries to raise issues

6.2: P7 transition

Elaine Macaskill raised the issue of feeder schools with very low, sometimes just 1, primary 7 child starting high school. CALL project used to run an excellent transition project during the primary 7 year but this project has ended. Staff from the Geopark and John Muir Trust have put together a streamlined version of this programme and are seeking financial support for transport to make it possible.

Action: transport costs are too high for PC to fully fund. A contribution may be possible.

7.0: Next meeting

13th February 2024, 6pm, UHS Geography Room/Teams

Meeting closed 19.20pm