

Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nan Parant Ardscoil Ulapul

**Parent Council Minutes Wednesday 22nd February 2024 6.00pm, 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, Caroline Boyd (Head Teacher), Jo Stewart (Deputy Head), Andrew Inglis (Teacher Representative), Elaine Macaskill, Jason Leon
Apologies: none

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting (Wednesday 22nd November 2023, 6.30pm)
Proposed by Suzanne Lewis-Ing, approved by Andrew Mackay

Actions arising:

2.1: Ragbag

Tesco is unable to host a Ragbag.

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

2.2 Duke of Edinburgh Award

UHS is able to continue offering Duke of Edinburgh awards using existing staffing.

Additionally, the bronze level award will enable pupils to gain a National 5 qualification in Navigation.

Action: closed

2.3: P7 transition

Action: Seori Burnett to contact Chairpersons of Parent Councils of feeder schools to discuss funding transport for P7 transition project.

3.0 Treasurer's Report

Balance at 31/1/24 £3471.04.

4.0 Head Teacher's report

See notes attached for summary of school news.

4.1 OUR ULLAPOOL

Andrew Inglis summarised activities of pupil-lead Health & Wellbeing group, OUR Ullapool:

- Senior phase pupils supporting S1s
- Transition buddies for incoming P7s

- Final week of summer term will have three off-timetable afternoons with healthy activities.

Actions:

- Local clubs or activity providers invited to give taster sessions for pupils to try their sport out
- PC to pay for materials for a fundraising 'colour run' to raise money for the Duke of Edinburgh award

5.0 Save Our Rural Schools campaign

Seori summarised a joint campaign with Parent Councils of Gairloch, Ullapool, Kinlochbervie and Farr High School ASGs. Faced with falling school rolls over the coming years, schools will lose resources including teaching and support staff. This will make it difficult for schools to offer a core curriculum. PCs have conducted focus groups with pupils and staff at their schools and developed a briefing note and online petition which asks for an equitable secondary school offering in rural areas. The campaign has been picked up by national press and the campaign has over 700 signatures.

Action: continue to call for wider parent body to support the campaign

6.0 AOB

6.1: School transport during adverse weather

Caroline Boyd told us that Assynt school transport has been cancelled for 11 days since September due to adverse weather and bus breakdown. Achiltibuie, Dundonnell and Lochside transport has also been affected by adverse weather. This is particularly concerning for senior phase pupils who have SQA coursework deadlines.

Where possible, staff try to provide work online but this is not being completed by all pupils. The school will continue to reinforce, to pupils, the message that although transport has been cancelled, that it is a normal school day and they are expected to continue with any outstanding work/check Google Classroom for work provided by their teachers. The school would appreciate support from parents regarding this.

Actions:

- UHS has identified courses/pupils which are highest priority and will offer extra study sessions to help children get up to speed on coursework
- UHS continue to liaise with School Transport department about reliability of service
- PC to write to the Assynt Community Council and Councillor Hutchison about reliability and resilience of school transport, noting that the buses are not safe to drive in high winds due to the doors, and poor maintenance on the Assynt gritter.

7.0: Next meeting

21st May 2024, 6pm, UHS Geography Room/Teams

Meeting closed 19.35pm

Headteacher's report

UHS Update

Staffing

- ✓ Mrs Keighley has joined the SfL department as a PSA, following Mr Bennett's retirement at Christmas.
- ✓ We also look forward to welcoming our new piping instructor and school counsellor in the coming weeks.
- ✓ Mrs Copestake retires this week. KC has been an integral part of UHS for 22 years and we will miss her greatly.
- ✓ Ms Buick was successful at interview for the post of Clerical Assistant. We look forward to welcoming Kim to the school at the start of March.

Senior Phase assessments

- ✓ Yet again, the prelims were impacted by adverse weather conditions, but we got there...eventually!! The young people coped well with the disruptions - credit to them. A big thank you to Mrs Stewart for organising (and re-organising) the assessments and to Mrs O'Leary and the PSA for all their support for our young people during this time. It has also been a busy time for teacher with prelim marking and post-prelim tracking reports. Senior Phase tracking will be issued later this week, and the senior phase parents' evening takes place on 6th March.

School Inspection

The inspection report has now been published and is available on the Education Scotland website. It was successful inspection - the inspection team are confident that we have the capacity to continue to improve without further engagement from HMI. The inspection report recognises the many strengths of the school whilst also reinforcing the areas for further development which we had identified through our own self-evaluation processes. We will continue to work on the improvement priorities, as set out in the School Improvement Plan, and to use a range of evidence, including feedback from the inspection, to inform our next steps.

Activities beyond the formal curriculum (Dec – Feb)

- ✓ At the end of last term, we had various Christmas celebrations, including the Folk Group Christmas Tour, Christmas Assembly and Christmas Party. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for their support with the Christmas Party – it was much appreciated. A big thank you also to Mrs Pyke and all the members of staff who supported the event. It was lovely seeing so many pupils enjoying themselves.
- ✓ The Paris Trip was also a great success.

- ✓ Term 3 started with our Celebrating Success assembly and merit celebration event.
- ✓ The Darts Club has re-started and there has also been inter-house badminton, basketball and cross-country activities.
- ✓ The John Muir Rangers have been involved in a range of activities including First Aid training.
- ✓ The SCQF Ambassadors delivered an input during the S3 Parents' Evening and will also be doing a similar presentation during the forthcoming senior phase parents' evening on 6th March.
- ✓ S1 pupils were involved in a dance and music workshop this week.
- ✓ SB (S2) is heading to the FilmG Awards in Glasgow on Friday 23rd Feb. SB has been nominated in the 'Star' and 'Best Director' categories.

It is great to be able to offer our young people such a diverse range of activities and experiences.

'Our Ullapool' (AI)

Curriculum/subject choice (JS)