

Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nan Parant Ardscoil Ulapul

Parent Council Minutes Wednesday 26th March 2025 6.00pm, Ullapool High School and through Microsoft Teams

Meeting opened: 18.05pm

1.0 Present and apologies: Nadine Lunn (Chair), Sian Curley (Secretary) , Heather Smith (Treasurer), Tim Loftus

Lee Coutts (Headteacher) Jo Stewart (Deputy Headteacher), Andrew Inglis (Teacher Representative)

Apologies: Elaine Macaskill

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings

Approved Heather Smith, seconded Tim Loftus

3.0 Matters arising from previous meetings

3.1 PC constitution

The Constitution needs to be updated. **Action:** Nadine and Lee to meet and update

3.2 25th Anniversary

Celebration arranged for 4th April 2025

3.3 Pupil social event

Pencilled in for 29th May 2025. PC to support costs.

3.4 Assynt pupil transport

Assynt transport has been reliable since last PC meeting but problems anticipated next winter. Impact on pupil's attendance percentages noted. Joanne

Action: Lee to raise issue in his meeting with the local councillor

Action: Sian to attend next Assynt community council meeting

4.0 Treasurer's Report

4.1 Bank account

Signatories have been successfully updated; signatories are now Heather Smith, Andrew Hayton and Sian Curley

	Incoming	Outgoing
HT leaving gift		£88.25
Grant for Much Ado about		£250

Nothing set		
Grant for Spanish Trip		£800
Grant for Hill to Grill		£500
Ragbag	£128.20	
Highland Council Parent Council grant	£202.21	
Totals	£336.41	£1638.25
BALANCE	£1642.16	

4.2 Grants/funding

- Discussion of further Ragbag clothing bin.
Action: Heather to find a contact in Highland Council for siting a further bin on council land
- Income from Easyfundraising has tailed off and it was felt that not many current parents know that they can use this app to support the school.
Action: Lee to promote Easyfundraising & Ragbag in school communications
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4.3 Funding requests

Anticipated that Parent Council will support the pupil's social event in May, details to be confirmed.

5.0 Head Teacher's report

See attached notes for full report

- Lee Coutts thanked staff and pupils for warmly welcoming him to the school
- Registration has been reintroduced and has resulted in better time-keeping from pupils
- Some pupils have requested a school uniform
Action: Lee to survey the pupil voice further

6.0 AOB

6.1 Free school meals and uniform grants

Discussion of low take-up of free school meals and uniform grant. School staff felt there are eligible families who don't apply for this. School funding (Pupil Equity Fund) is linked to the number of pupils on free school meals. Andrew suggested families might find it easier to discuss with a Highland Council employee rather than school staff who are part of the community.

Action: Lee, Joanne, Andrew to discuss communications around free school meals fund, promoting wider benefits to school.

6.2 Assynt Late Bus

Ben Bruce is organising a survey to gather parent and pupils views to support a funding application for next year. Although the bus was started to enable Assynt pupils to attend Pipe-Band and Swim Club, it can also be used for any young people who need to stay in Ullapool after the school bus has left. Ben and Yvonne are keen to hear if families would rather that the bus runs on different days or at different times.

Action: Lee to contact Ben about how UHS can support use of the late bus and to encourage Assynt families to provide feedback.

6.3 Macphail Centre

Tim attended the Macphail Centre meeting as UHS parent representative with Alice Mikiety.

Meeting closed 19.05pm

Head Teacher Update for Parent Council 26 March 2025

Overview:

Took up post on 10 March 2025

Been impressed at the warm welcome received from pupils and staff. Pupils are polite, welcoming and curious! It has been a pleasure getting to know them over the last couple of weeks.

Introductory letter sent to parents on 10 March 2025

Whole school assembly took place on 17 March – reinforcing our vision and aims – reassuring pupils and answering questions

New weekly HT update providing information on school life and activities – positive feedback received

New Facebook page showcasing life at UHS has very good interaction and followers (approx. 200)

Letter to P7 families sent on 24/3 to introduce myself and welcome them to the UHS community

Registration was reintroduced on 10 March – much improved level of late coming, but we need to continue to reinforce importance of timekeeping (8.50am start). Working with S5/6 to gather feedback on the value of registration – focus group scheduled for 26/3.

Good news regarding % of school leavers in a positive destination 97% in 23/24 (like last year) – slightly higher than comparators, Highlands and Nationally. Data published last month.

Pupil achievements and activities since taking up post:

Powering Future presentations taking place in Inverness today (25 March)

Rural Skills pupils build a new shed

Some fantastic improvements seen in S1 numeracy

Scottish Opera carried out a workshop on 11 March with pupils

Spring Concert & Art Exhibition on 18 March – what a fantastic display of our pupils' creativity and talent! Videos and pictures on Facebook.

S3 Bronze Crest – S3 pupils not participating in Ross Country programme are working towards this British Science Association award

Pupils supported the Primary Cross Country activities on 18 March – a big thanks to the S2 and S3 pupils who did this

First trip to of the Young Curator's Club to Ullapool Museum took place

Several pupils took part in the Highland Young Musicians event at Eden Court on 22 March

Congratulations to our girls' football team on winning the Active School's West Coast Cup against Gairloch High School last week. The 1-1 in Gairloch was enough to see the girls win 2-1 on aggregate following the 1-0 here earlier in the session.

Nigel Vardy (aka Mr Frostbite) gave a talk on surviving a storm on Alaska's Mount McKinley.

A couple of visits from former pupils giving talks to pupils on careers in Journalism and Engineering.

Our Folk Group performed in Inverness on 14 March.

Pupil Volunteering Opportunities:

Four opportunities have been given to pupils to work with me over the coming weeks on several short-life working groups

- o Pupil Voice Group - this group will help decide how the school gathers feedback from pupils about all things that matters to them.
- o Registration Group - we want to hear ideas on what could be done to make registration better. We know S1-4 pupils wanted registration reintroduced, but S5 were not as keen. This group will help make registration more valuable for everyone.
- o School Website Group - this group will provide feedback on the current school website and help to design a refreshed one for launching before next session.
- o Positive Relationships Group - we want to gather some feedback on our current positive relationships (behaviour) policy. This will help to inform the work we do next year as a school.

Andrew Inglis looking to reinvigorate 'Our Ullapool' groups to include S1-S3 pupils.

Update on Rights Respecting Schools:

Staff have completed module 3 of their training

Reference to children's rights being made explicit in school publications

Meeting to discuss acceleration of progress towards Silver about to take place

Learning, Teaching & Assessment Survey:

Pupil survey taking place on 26 March period 3

This is the fourth time this survey has been completed in 2 years – gives us trend information

Asks pupils thoughts about learning, teaching and assessment

Separate question this time on school uniform to capture whole school thoughts on this

Other surveys:

Highland Lifestyle Survey about to be completed – informs improvement of health and wellbeing programmes and provision for pupils as well as evidencing progress made to date.

Glasgow Motivation and Wellbeing Profile (GMWP) will be completed after Easter – this provides us with a sense of motivation and wellbeing of pupils in school.

The information gathered from all the surveys and focus groups is important for our self-evaluation and will inform the judgements we make towards our school improvement plan.

School Improvement Plan Update:

Four priorities

- o Learning and teaching - to better meet the needs of all learners and provide a more consistent learning experience across the school.
- o Curriculum - to ensure that our curriculum meets the needs of our learners and maximises attainment.
- o Wellbeing and leadership - to improve the wellbeing of pupils and staff and further develop leadership at all levels.
- o Gaelic - to increase awareness and appreciation of our local culture and

heritage.

In year 2 of a 3 year improvement cycle

SLT reviewing progress towards year 2 activities – evidence informed from feedback (pupils, staff, families, partners), tracking information, quantitative information, observations etc

JS to hold further focus group with parents/families on curriculum

Year 3 improvement plan will be devised over coming weeks and months in conjunction with the entire school community – no significant change of priorities, but activities within each may vary.

Review of 2024-25 will follow in the summer along with several outputs (e.g. curriculum rationale, 25/26 action plan).

LC

25/3/25