

Ullapool High School Parent Council Minutes 24/02/2026

Present: Tim Loftus, Andrew Inglis (Teacher rep), Lee Coutts (Head teacher), Katrina Geissel, Becky Urquhart, Edie Craig (pupil rep), Chris Di Rollo, Heather Smith, Cara Smith (pupil rep), Elaine Macaskill, Jo Stewart (Deputy Head- via Teams)

Apologies: Lizzie Williams, Briony Hume, Nadine Lunn (chair), Geraldine Murray

Minutes from last meeting: proposed by Heather Smith, Seconded by Tim Loftus

Finances:

Expenses: £0

Income: Rag bag £125.60, Easy fundraising £15.06

Bank Balance: £1427.42

Bank signatories updated- HS

Funding application to be submitted to Highland council - Heather Smith

Timing of PC meetings- acknowledged difficulty in some parents attending earlier meetings, agreed aim for 17.30 for next meeting and for further discussion on next meeting agenda

Social Media updates for PC- Geraldine Murray stepping down, K Geissel to post PC meetings on Facebook, if someone else willing to oversee social media updates please contact KG

Whatsapp group for parents on Parent council to be set up (Dr Coutts advised teachers/staff cannot be on this). KG to set up

School Bus update: Dr Coutts has contacted Highland Council regarding recent incident with Achiltibuie bus. E Macaskill to request meeting re school bus

S2 subject choices- query from parent: Parents will be informed soon regarding this, all will be processed at the same time - Jo Stewart

Hill to Grill project postponed - parent query- no update as yet when it will be rescheduled (Issues- lack of minibus drivers, needs different members of staff to accompany, availability of minibuses). Intention is to proceed in next 2-3 months - Jo Stewart

Pupil updates:

Cara Smith:

S1 requests - Dr Coutts encouraged that these be brought to House leaders meeting

School uniform- agreement in place that school uniform not planned after prior student consultation, school hoodies are in the pipeline (LC)

Edie Craig: proposed a column with High School updates for the Ullapool News- Dr Coutts suggested to liaise with Ms Thompson and Ms Maclean

Discussion re student social events e.g School Prom- need for students to come forward to be involved in organising these in order to make these happen

Social Night for parent council inviting all parents planned for Friday 20th March: Tim Loftus to organise,
(suggestion to have whiteboard/charts for parents to write suggestions for PC activities/what they might be able to assist with)

Headteacher's update:

- Good response to Parent/Carer survey (report has gone out already)
- Partners joint impact survey planned regarding the work they do with the school
- Pupil survey Jan 26- tailored focused group with each year group being led by house leaders- addressing high priority issues first eg toilets getting replaced in summer.
- Proposals being collected from pupils for pupil-led spending (£10,000 budget), these need to be sustainable and in line with school priorities, e.g new classroom resources.
- Price of food in canteen raised by pupils as an issue- Price is set centrally by the Highland council, Dr Coutts is looking into whether the school subsidising this may be an option. Looking into the option of increasing the number of water fountains.
- Dr Coutts also looking into the cost of fuel for school trips- aim is that school would cover this
- Pupils reporting being hungry in mornings- long gap to first break, however pupils and staff voted against moving this to an earlier time. Dr Coutts exploring options including Breakfast Club being extended (currently Wednesday only), however poor uptake on this currently.
- Note: the canteen is available to all pupils first thing in the morning.
- School has been awarded the Silver Rights-respecting School Award
- UHS is currently coming to the end of a 3 year School Improvement Cycle- new plan currently being developed

Next Meeting Wednesday 20th May @ 17.30