



Ullapool High School Parent Council Comhairle Nam Pàrant Ardsgoil Ulapul Minutes

Tuesday 6th Nov 6:30pm, Ullapool High School

- Present: (PC members):** Anthony O'Flaherty (Chair), Christine Crook (Vice-Chair), Dave Maxwell (Secretary), Helen Meek (Treasurer), Nellie Collins, Stephanie Sutherland, Sue Pomeroy, Tíree Collins (Pupil Rep)
Others In attendance: Robbie McFedries (Head), Anne Hunter (Depute), Susanne Lewis-Ing, Gina Mauger, Rosemary O'Leary (PT, Learning Support)
Apologies: Fiona Saywell, Julie Allen, Ian Williams (Teacher Rep). Gareth Lewis-Ing, Anne Wood, Andrew Lintern, Janis Patterson, Sot Otter, Joany McGuire
- Approval of minutes of the previous 2 meetings (29th May) –** Proposed by AO'F, seconded by HM (12th Sept) - proposed by DM, seconded by SP
- Learning Support –** Rosemary O'Leary
Rosemary presented an overview of the role of Learning Support in the school. As well as teaching pupils with support needs and providing alternative arrangements for exams, her team carries out a wide range of other support work. For more information, email Rosemary.O'Leary@highland.gov.uk
- Head Teacher's Report:** (R McF)
 - Staffing –** Ruth Thompson has been appointed as the new English teacher (perm role). The "Pupil Equity" funding (combined across Ullapool Associated School Group (ASG) i.e. the HS and feeder primaries) has been used to recruit SS as the new Literacy/Numeracy Engagement teacher (3d/week). This role is across all the local primary schools. AO'F will be supporting SS in this role.
 - Council Consultations –** Highland are considering introducing a form of "free schools" similar to, but not going as far as, the model in England + Wales. Each school would be run by parents, have a Business Manager and would follow its own curriculum. See <https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/> for more details.
The Council are also continuing to look at other "3-18" school management structures across the region. This provides a single management team for Nursery, Primary and Secondary school clusters. As well as saving money, this can help with pooling resources across small schools. Gairloch, KLB and Farr have already moved to this and Ullapool ASG is due for consideration in 2019. There are many different options and parents will be consulted nearer the time.
 - Attainment Gap –** The SQA provide analysis of "value add" against a national average, but our postcodes are too large to provide meaningful figures. Teachers have manually identified the lowest 20% in the school and are continuing to look at ways to improve their outcomes.
- Treasurer's Report (HM) -** The Bank balance is £832.05. 4 people have signed up for Easyfundraising and raised over £80. **Action** CC and HM to hand out of leaflets at Parent's Evenings.
- Matters Arising from previous meeting**
 - Astro turf –** R McF (post meeting) update from the council: "The equipment is due for delivery to Ullapool on 16th November' Recess goal storage - surfacing squad us due onsite 13th November; Carpet fitting is ongoing and is very much weather dependent. Handover will be as soon as possible."
 - Sound recording studio –** some details still to sort out around access during classes.
Action RMcF to work with TC to resolve.
 - Macphail –** SO will be the new rep.
- Sailing –** various options were discussed to run Fri afternoon sailing using Lochbroom Sailing Club equipment. Would need to identify a qualified instructor and someone with a Safety Boat Certificate available during the day. Some funding may be required to make this work.
Action AO'F to contact instructor from KLB school.
- Pupil Update:** (TC)

A survey has been carried out about xmas party options. S1-3 will have a Ceilidh and S4-6 will have a Winter Ball

9. **AOB**

- **Friday Afternoon Activities** - TC running a guitar class, but needs an adult to supervise. **Action** RMcF to see if he could help. Could other pupils run groups e.g. as part of their DoE Community Service? Highland Dancing? **Action** TC to raise at Registration. IW is starting a drama group. Could a Photography group be started? **Action:** RMcF to discuss with Ruth whose partner may be able to help.
- **Role of the Parent Council** – SS and NC suggested the PC could take on a role raising funds for Friday afternoon activities. **Action:** SS and NC to canvas parent opinion on starting a fundraising sub-group.
- **Facebook** – SS highlighted that this was not very active and agreed to post more articles – **Actions** SS
- **Transport to Dundonnell on Fridays** - **Action:** SP to raise with Community Council
- **Course / Careers Advice** – parents are reminded of the “My World of Work” website and that snr pupils can (and do) travel to Inverness for additional courses not offered by the school.

10. **Date of next meeting:** Tue 30th Jan @ 6:30 pm