



Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nam Pàrant Ardsgoil Ulapul
Minutes

Tuesday 12th Sept 6:30pm, Ullapool High School

1. **Present and apologies: Parent Council members:** Anthony O'Flaherty (Chair), Helen Meek (Treasurer), Nellie Collins, Stephanie Sutherland, Gareth Lewis-Ing, Ian Williams (Teacher Rep)
In attendance: Robbie McFeddries (Head), Anne Hunter (Depute), Gina Mauger
Apologies: Sue Pomeroy, Fiona Saywell, Christine Crook (Vice-Chair), Dave Maxwell (Secretary), Julie Allen
2. **Announcements or late additions to the agenda:** See 8
3. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (29th May 2017):** Held over as we didn't have a printed copy to hand
4. **Head Teacher's report:** (R McF)
Pre-appeal results. Appeal system is now a re-mark.
S5 big growth in 3+ Highers. Not sure why but great result. (Figure for 5+ hard for small school)

Robbie asks departments to use SOSCAS to make rough predictions. School uses red, amber, green system and then analyse what can be tweaked.

School priorities are based on Scottish Govt legislation (see page 3 of R McF report). Intervening section is a bit of a challenge. It's uncomfortable talking about where poverty can be a barrier. School trying to address this. 26 out of about 200 pupils may fit this group. Trying to address this in Support for Learning. Mentoring from people in community has helped. Just at start of it at the moment.

Mental health a huge issue across Scotland. Getting various support staff in place but at moment there's a 6 month referral list to somewhere like the Phoenix Centre in Inverness. So the school is trying to get experts here to try and reduce waiting time.

Employability - trying to work with local employers.

Page 5 of R McF report - Letters going out to 4 / 5 year, to alert parents if pupil struggling or having problems with school subjects.

Staffing – Initially only 4 applicants for English post. School put advert out again and hope to appoint before October. Ad currently out for a home school link teacher, 3 year post, looking at literacy and numeracy. Pooled with the primary schools. Again hope to appoint before October. Staffing budget slightly over.

Suggestions to more widely advertise what's going on in School. Put information in Ullapool News in advance? Robbie seeing IT person to look at improving Parent Evenings and will investigate. Also using Facebook to push links. (Gareth Lewis-Ing to talk to Robbie and perhaps help).

Robbie thinking of teachers coming to do 15 min slots at Parent Council meetings. School is aiming to try and custom build each pupil's choices over exams.

Lochinver late bus was dropped unexpectedly but now the Community Council has stepped in and it's back on. School paid for it during exams but expensive and could only afford to pay for it for 2 weeks.

Pupil Activities: (AH)

June

S2 &3 Littoral project

S2 Carer's presentation/workshop

Spanish Exchange
Bioinformatic workshop
Xpo North
Youth Philanthropy event
Visit to Grays school of Art degree show
Social subjects London trip
Gold DofE Expedition

August

Listen Well Training
My World of work ambassador training
University tour
University trip

September

S3 Chefs Adopt a school
S1 Road safety play
S5/6 Young Drivers theatre performance
Bronze Dof E Expedition
Gaelic trip

5. **Treasurer's Report** (HM) - The Bank balance is £831.95.

6. **Matters arising from previous meeting**

Astro turf – R McF hoped the Astro will be finished before end of Oct. School has been given deadline of Nov by Council. Apply to Tesco local Community funding for the seating for Astro?

Sound recording studio – Sound recording studio: Alastair (tutor) has said it's working well for him. But problem is that students need to go through music room so can be a problem as they can't go through the class when music lesson is on. AH to follow up and check.

Sound desk - Great facility - NC says good to promote it and a parent group are trying to get funding for paying tutor for 6 week rolling courses and for equipment. Awards for All grant being investigated.

Anthony asked if parent rota necessary? School feel it needs supervising due to recent thefts.

Still not much happening on Friday afternoons - School is keen for new Clubs / activities to get going.

7. **Pupil Update** 5th and 6th Years have been interviewed. Possibly Carla Lees and Tíree Collins to come as pupil reps.

8. **AOB**

- Lochinver bus. Parent had complained about behaviour. Spitting and water pistols. AH has spoken to the concerned parent. School says come to them as otherwise old news gets repeated when problem sorted.
- Macphail Centre looking for 2 reps from Parent Council. SS offered and suggestion that Sot Otter might be approached as being interested.
- Conference on 18th November for Parent Councils.
- A O'F said it was a pity that not many people at the meeting. He thanked the school staff for the good work that's being done. Suggestion to set up Facebook page as 'Event' so people get notifications.

9. **Date of next meeting:** Mon 6th November @ 6:30 pm