

Newtonmore Parent Council AGM 20.09.2022

Meeting opens at 7:00

Welcome

Present: Sarah Fraser (SF) Head Teacher, Cathy Grover (CG) Teacher Rep, Helen Gray (HG) Vice Chair, Heather Hill (HH), Cody Davies (CD), Sarah Cheyne (SC), Laura McKinnon (LMcK), Trisala Tassell-Dawson (TTD), Liz McGill (LMcG) Treasurer, Emma Benbow (EB), Gillian Bedi (GB) Chair, Amy Mackintosh (AMack), Lisa Lavin (LL), Jane Aly (JA), Kaylie Allen (KA) Secretary

Apologies: Lynn Foster

Minutes/ Matters arising

Constitution and Charitable status: We have looked into this over the last year, and drafted a new Constitution. We then got advice from Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) on applying to become a charity. VABS recommended not going this route due to the administrative burden, but have offered to support with current Constitution and access to funding opportunities. Parent Council can become members of VABS and get ongoing information on upcoming funding opportunities.

Action: Agreed to follow advice and not apply for charitable status at this point and to become members of VABS and send current Constitution for a review.

NB – VABS have subsequently confirmed that the Parent Council are already members of VABS and will update contact details so we get funding information.

Previous minutes

Action: Previous AGM minutes were proposed by GB and seconded by LMcG.

Chair Person's Report.

GB gave a brief report as the last Parent Council was just 3 weeks previously.

- Sorry to see Mrs Dudgeon leave and pleased to have Mrs Ross join for P7 English•
- Thank you to the parents who helped out with the playground painting

Head Teacher's Report

SF gave her report on the previous school year (21/22)

Return to school

We started the new school session in August 21 with some Covid mitigations still in place. Main changes: singing now permitted (CTs delighted particularly infant staff). Continue with: hand washing routines, use of staggered entrances to school and sitting in class bubbles for lunch. However, the school community was particularly badly hit towards the end of year/start of new year. 49 pupils absent one day in January (not all Covid related). Classes were impacted and P1-3, P5/6, P7 and P4-7 classes were all closed on the advice of the Health Protection Team whilst they undertook further investigations. GN was also closed due to staffing issues. Staffing was also badly affected with many staff members testing positive and very little supply cover available locally. However, we rode the storm and attendance improved over the course of the term.

Gaelic catchment area

the catchment area for Gaelic Medium pupils within this area. This was a statutory process and happened in other GM schools at the same time as it was realised that many GM schools did not have a defined catchment area. There were various stakeholder meetings with parents, staff, pupils, Parent Council, ASG schools. This raised a number of concerns locally regarding the impact this may have on English Medium pupil numbers at NPS should the school reach capacity. HC were able to offer assurances that the decision would not impact on the ability of local children to access English Medium education at NPS and that they would look at the situation should it arise. The process was concluded and the catchment area was defined as being the ASG catchment.

School lunches

Free school lunches were rolled out to P4 & P5 pupils. P6 & P7 roll out has been halted for the moment.

Improvement Priorities for session 2021/22

School improvement priorities for the session continued to be Recovery curriculum – literacy, numeracy, H&W

A play-based approach was introduced and trialled in the infant classes. Literacy and Numeracy were taught in the morning with a play-based approach to topic learning in the afternoon. Mrs Dallas also trialled a new pupil profile for the infant class. Although very time onerous, this was very well received by parents. We have made some adjustments and will continue this year.

SNSA assessments were completed with all the relevant age groups.

- SNSA data P1 – Numeracy 95% Literacy 100% achieved level or beyond (numeracy up)
- SNSA data P4 - Numeracy 67% Reading 83% Writing 78% achieved level or beyond (all up)
- SNSA data P7 – Numeracy 65% (94%) Reading 65% (94%) Writing 29% (81%) achieved level or beyond (up bar writing)

**Writing only looks at tools for writing – mainly spelling, some punctuation and grammar but not actually the writing process

Emerging Literacy screeners were also completed with early level pupils. Outdoor learning – we had some visits to the Wildwood prior to the winter storms which saw many trees falling down in the Folk Park. Trees were felled and I have just undertaken a visit with Folk Park staff to update risk assessments to allow classes to access this valuable learning space again. Playground and playing-field improvements continued throughout the year and thank you to the Parent Council for undertaking these activities.

School Roll & Staffing

- Numbers for 2021-2022 – 109 pupils + 29 nursery
- Mrs Reid joined us as Covid Recovery teacher (one day per week and remained until Easter holiday when she went on maternity leave) She was replaced by Miss Steel until the end of session; Miss Crookston left after five and a half years to take up a teaching post in Moray; after a period of supply teachers (mainly Mrs Shaw and Mr McLean) Miss Martin joined us as P3/4 CT on a fixed term contract until the end of the school session; Mrs Murchie continued as PT/nursery management time and CCR teacher focusing on supporting pupil emotional wellbeing; Mr Phillip Darcy started in canteen; Ms Kirstin MacDougall stated as playground supervisor and relief support worker covering nursery staff lunch breaks. Mrs Dudgeon started the school

session as P7 class teacher but has since been redeployed to Aviemore Primary School.

- Sadly, Mrs Gorman has been absent on long term sick since the start of 2022. Iain Robinson and

Gayle Campbell covered her vacancy in Gaelic Nursery until the end of session and Mrs Agnes Richardson has been redeployed from Gergask Nursery as there were no pupils enrolled for this school session.

- PSAs employed –
Mrs Cooke FTE, Mrs Sellar (3 days) Miss Dixon (4 days)
- Mr Amran and Mrs Olds as ASNT from KHS for school session 21/22. Miss Backermans ASNT for session 22/23
- End of school session was stressful due to the projected number on the school role for session 22/23. Only 67 children enrolled in EM which meant that we were 5 children short of the required number to have 4 classes (72 pupils). Fortunately, more families appeared at the end of session and we were able to confirm the four classes for the new school session.
- Since the start of school session 22/23, Gergask Primary School has been mothballed (a temporary closure). The two remaining pupils have enrolled at NPS. Staff have been redeployed: Mrs Ross to P7 NPS; Mrs Croft (PSA) to NPS; Mrs Cross (clerical) to NPS until another post is found for her.
- We had a couple of snow closure days

Activities

- Slowly school life returned to a new normal in August 21 • Alltnacriche residential went ahead although in a slightly different format with the schools attending on an individual basis. This experience was still enjoyed by the pupils though and they stayed for one overnight. An additional transition event was organised by Alltnacriche in April which gave the ASG pupils the opportunity to meet up over a weekend of activities.
- Ski team qualified for finals in Glasgow. Huge thank you to Gill MacRae for organising this again and well done to pupils for organising a bake sale to help with the cost of this.
- Christmas - Online Christmas concert – Newtonmore Does Strictly with each class recording a dance which was judged by the panel. This was shared on the Christmas classroom, online panto, Santa visits in his grotto outside which was prepared by the PSAs and the children received a hot chocolate dipper (trying to be more eco-friendly and cut down on plastic wrappers), Christmas parties
- Strathfest – a combination of online and in person competitions this year.
- Unfortunately, the ski programme did not go ahead this year for P6 and 7 pupils. BSSSA was no longer organising or subsidising this programme, and this meant that the cost was much higher (£69 per pupil per day without kit and pass, £40 per pupil per day with own kit and pass and the cost of a coach to transport). Ultimately the lack of snow made the decision for us, and the ski programme did not go ahead. • Parents' evening continued as on-line (nursery and school)
- End of term - Sports day returned to the Eilan. Thank you to Newtonmore Camanachd Club for the use of their facilities. Lovely to see so many family members there to support the children.
- Transition – P7 three days at KHS; moving up day for all pupils, enhanced transition opportunities for all pupils and additional visits arranged for children who required this; face-to-face meetings with new nursery and P1 parents.
- School trips – P1-6 Macdonald cinema trip. Thank you to Stagecoach; P7 - Landmark
- prize-givings – two events and we are very grateful to Rob Ritchie who presented the prizes. P1-P6 prize giving in school (unfortunately no parents in attendance – photos

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taken and uploaded) P7 prize giving/leavers assembly on final day and parents were invited. This was a lovely event which marked the end of their time at NPS.

Treasurer's report for 21/22 year:

Date	Details	Paid out (£)	Paid in (£)	Balance (£)
28/09/20 2 1	Balance brought forward from last AGM			9744.01
28/02/20 2 2	Highland Council annual funding for the Parent Council		98.96	9
08/04/20 2 2	Co-op local community fund for improvements to outdoor play at the school		614.14	1
05/09/20 2 2	Cheque no 011127 (A McGill for basketball hoop and x2 Swingball sets)	118.97		10338.1 4
05/09/20 2 2	Cheque no 011128 (E McGill for outdoor play improvements)	104.39		10233.7 5
20/09/20 2 2	Balance carried forward			10233.75

Balance breakdown:

- Pitch Fund: **9532.72**
- Improvements to outdoor play (Co-op Fund): 390.78 but note money owing to
 - A McGill for outdoor storage boxes x2 and bean bags = 155.54
 - E McGill for tradeprint screen = 61.66

- Therefore new total after deductions will be **173.58**

• Parent Council Fund: **310.25**

Update:

- Further income expected via the Co-Op community fund in November (final payment). The current balance of funds raised is £1,500 and finishes at the end of October.
- Future costs for playground improvements may include x2 benches for the pitch, chalk board where Gaelic classes line up, more loose parts, den building kits, cost of putting up horizontal climbing wall, plants for large garden bed and bug hotel
- Awaiting Liezel to audit our accounts for the last financial year, currently up to date as of 31st March 2021. Lisa Lavin following up.
- Parent Council Funding form from Highland Council to be completed when new office bearers are selected at AGM
- As per Highland Council 'Financial Guidance Notes for Parent Councils' – the accounts should be audited or independently examined in line with the requirements of the Parent Council's constitution. Current Parent Council constitution states auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Recommendations for auditor please.

Action: Agreed to ask Liezel to review accounts up to March 2022 as an external examiner

Playground improvements

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- These continue to be ongoing, led by LMCG with agreement on expenditure through Office Bearers.
- SC confirmed she has spoken with Russwood regarding benches and an A-frame hut which they are happy to provide as a contribution to the ongoing improvements.

Office Bearers

As per the NPC constitution SF as Head Teacher chaired the election of Office Bearers for the next year.

Chair: Gillian Bedi was nominated by EB, seconded by HH. The nomination was accepted by Gillian

Vice Chair: Helen Gray was nominated by KA, seconded by GB. The nomination was accepted by

Secretary: Laura McKinnon was nominated by Liz McGill seconded by GB. The nomination was accepted by Laura

Treasurer: Kaylie was nominated by GB, seconded by HH. The nomination was accepted by Kaylie

Action: Office bearers as nominated were confirmed.

Liz to carry on as the Parent Council rep on the Community Consultation.

AOB

Funding for Altnachriche: GB outlined that the cost of the Altnachriche trip has increased by £15 per child and that Office bearers had agreed for the Parent Council to contribute £7.50 per child for 20 children to help with this increased cost. (£150) **Halloween Party** – SC spoke to Kerry about the Halloween Party. Last year it was done via the Playpark Fundraising Group (Kirsty and Mel) at the village hall. SC to ask Kirsty and Mel if they still have the decorations.

Parent Council agreed to organise/ host a party 28th October at the school (Friday PM). 2 sessions: Nursery to P1/2, and P4-P7 (P3 get to choose). Amy MackIntosh volunteered to co-ordinate organisation.

Meet the Teacher – CD raised a Meet the Teacher session and asked if there is the opportunity to chat and find out what is going on this term. SF suggested there will be information at the end of term, but also for parents can get in touch direct with Teachers to ask.

Noticeboard - LMcG raised the NoticeBoard that used to be at the school. It would be good to investigate a new Board?

Action – Parent Council will look at what notice boards are available and where to put them.

Headteachers newsletter/ Friday email – LMCK asked if some of the terms on the weekly newsletter could be explained eg YMI, Kodaly. SF agreed to add some context and a glossary of terms.

Diversity of Parent Council - CD raised it would be nice to have more diversity in the Parent Council – particularly male carers. Potential to have some online meetings/ hybrid. Investigate how this could be done.

Date of next meeting

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Date of next AGM : Pencilled for 26 September 2023 Date of next Parent Council meeting: 8th November 2022

Meeting closes at 8.30pm

