

Newtonmore Primary School Parent Council meeting minutes

Meeting opens at 7:10

Welcome

Present: Sarah Fraser Head Teacher (SF), Gillian Bedi (GB) Chair, Kaylie Allen (KA) Secretary, Helen Gray (HG), Sarah Cheyne (SC), Cathy Grover (CG), Jane Ali (JA), Cody Davis (CD), Lynne Foster (LF)

Apologies: Liz McGill, Kelly Sutton, Heather Hill

Minutes and Matters arising

Community Action Plan:

- VABS delighted with engagement from school
- Waiting on report for actions and feedback

Friends of Parent Council/Constitution :

- Drafted a constitution – it is based on a standard template on an unincorporated association. It is in quite complicated language and feels reasonably difficult to access and may put parents off being involved.
- **Action:** KA to send constitution to VABS and ask for advice

Routes to School Funding

- No longer available
- Discussion on some of the routes to school and risky points
- Agreed there needs to be evidence of concerns and Highland Council could look at it. LF suggested they would need a letter from SF on concerns – suggested it could be a good time to go back to the Council as there appears to be more cars around and parked adjacent to the school. LF to send GB the contact at the Council
- If anyone sees anything to report to SF

Previous minutes

Action: Previous meeting minutes were proposed by GB, seconded by CG

Chair Person's report

GB gave her Chair Person's report noting how nice it is to be at a meeting in the school for a excited to see the extension

- Exciting term for the P7's moving up to the High school – they have their leavers jumpers already
- Recognising difficult term with sickness and thanking teachers on behalf of parents for their ongoing hard work.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

SF gave her Head Teachers report and started by reiterate that all parents can contact the school if they want to speak with Teachers outside of parent teachers interviews.

Staffing

- Ms Martin has started as P3/4 class teacher. Mrs Reid is on maternity leave from Covid Recovery teacher post and this has been filled by Mrs Murchie and Miss Steel until the end of session.
- Mrs Johnston returned to work in February after her accident and Mrs Gorman is still off. Mr Iain Robinson and Miss Gayle Campbell are covering Mrs Gorman's absence in nursery with Miss Binnie and Mrs Louise Tonkin is covering the PSA hours
- Mr Phillip Darcy has started in the canteen
- Ms Kirstin MacDougall covering support worker to cover lunch breaks for staff in ELC

Covid

- Term 3 was a very difficult term for the school with almost all staff affected by Covid and very little supply cover locally. Pupil numbers affected were also very high with pupil attendance being quite low for a number of weeks.
- Nursery classes and infant classes were closed due to lack of staff and also on the advice of the Health Protection Team. It is always a very difficult decision to make to close a class as we understand the difficulties this causes for parents however to operate safely this was a decision which I did have to make.
- We have kept some of the measures in place – ventilation, wearing of face coverings in communal areas, hand washing routines, staggered entrances (as this works best for the school)

Contacting parents

- Text messaging service now used to contact parents as unsure if all are accessing the weekly email. Hopefully parents do not feel bombarded with messages from school.

Snow

- School and nursery closed early on Friday 18th Feb and on Thursday 24th Feb. I have revised our closing school protocol in light of this.

Ski programme

- 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 were 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.

Wildwood

- Unfortunately we are unable to access the Wildwood just now. Fallen trees need to be cleared and risk assessment completed with Highlife Highland staff before we can access again for outdoor learning.

YMI – Charlie completed the YMI sessions in school as online format was not very successful.

After school clubs – multi-sport started but the number of sessions completed was impacted by Covid

Alltnacriche –P7s across the ASG attended a weekend residential (Friday afternoon – Sunday afternoon) at Alltnacriche. High number of pupils from NPS attended. Another one day event on Saturday 4th June for P7s

Parents evening – online again due to Covid restrictions – well attended and technology worked better this time

Bake Sale for Comic Relief/Ukraine raised the fantastic amount of £350.00

Other business

- We were delighted to host the **MacTavish Cup draw** at NPS
- Pop up science room at Kincaig village hall. P4-7, P5/6 and P7 pupils all attended for a full day of robotics
- Through Tyler Marshall, BEAR Scotland and HIS donated 85 high-viz jackets to the school
- Bikeability training due to start today for P7s – 6 week block
- Enhanced transition opportunities for P7s. All P7s visited KHS and two smaller groups were able to attend for a further two visits to support transition
- Rob Ritchie BEM celebration – a group of 18 children, under the direction of Sheila MacKay entertained the assembled guests with a rendition of Teann a Nall and The Shinty Referee
- Alpacas – the children were invited by Jenni to name one of the alpacas at Cairngorm Alpacas. Jenni has been in touch and the winning pupil will be informed at assembly on Friday.
- Term 4
- We have contacted the photographer re school photos before the end of session and are awaiting to hear back from him.
- Prize giving/leavers assembly will be for P7 parents only
- Transition days for P7 to KHS and N4 to P1 and moving up day will happen in June
- Usual transition meetings will be reinstated for parents in June (new nursery, new P1)
- Sports Day on the Eilan with families invited to attend
- School fund balance - £3858.99

Key dates:

- 13th, 20th & 27th May – Safe, Strong & Free workshops for N5, P1 and P2 pupils
- 1st June – Sports Day
- 8th June – reserve sports day
- 3rd June – extra holiday Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Alltnacriche Jubilee Open Day
- 4th June – Alltnacriche transition day for P7s (optional)
- 17th June – Pupil reports out
- 21st, 22nd & 23rd June – P7s to KHS for transition
- 23rd June – moving up day
- 30th June – P7 leavers' assembly/summer holiday

Treasurers report

Date	Details	Paid out (£)	Paid in (£)	Balance (£)
08/02/2022	Balance brought forward from last meeting			9744.01
28/02/2022	Highland Council annual funding for the Parent Council		98.96	9842.97
08/04/2022	Co-op Local Community Fund for improvements to outdoor play at the school		614.14	10457.11
03/05/2022	Balance carried forward			10457.11

Balance breakdown:

- Pitch Fund: 9532.72
- Improvements to outdoor play (Co-op Fund): 614.14
- Parent Council Fund: 310.25

Update:

- Annual Highland Council Funding received with thanks
- First payment received from the Co-op with a huge thank you to the local community for supporting this cause
- Met with Roy Alexander re the Isobel Parker Trust (£2000 gifted in October 2016) and although it hasn't been used for the drainage of the pitch he is agreeable that it is used for the development of playing areas for the children. The Isobel Parker Trust is now no longer operating.

Playground and School field improvement/ Co-Op Fundraising

- LMcG has been drafting some ideas for playground and pitch improvements utilising the Co-op Fundraising and funds previously raised.

Action: LMcG, KA and GB to meet and put out options for people to agree via email.

AOB

- JA raised a Uniform swap shop for parents to deposit and get used school uniforms. Agreed it a great idea and outdoor classroom. SF suggested potential to do for transition days and Friday of that week. Once dates are confirmed SF will email and a plan will be put in place.
- SC – asked about 'Season's for Growth' programme. SF said it was on just now for kids in transition to High School.
- SC asked about school gates and when they are locked and not. The gates are currently open at break times and on the latch, generally the kids know not to go beyond the gates. The changes were as a result of the building works. SF confirmed that were concerns from parents about locking the gates and the inconvenience. PSA's cover playgrounds at morning break, and there is now a Playground monitor at lunchtime. SF agreed that gates can be locked at break time and there could be parent volunteers to unlock the gates.
- LF asked if there is going to be a school trip this year. SF has approached coach company, but they can't give the school two buses on one day. The school is thinking about alternatives.

Date of next meeting : 30th August 2022 7pm and AGM 7pm 13th September 2022