

<b>COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR</b> Department of Education & Children's Services <b>Minute/Note of Meeting</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting</b>		
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>28 September 2015</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>Rm 34</b>		
	<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>			

<b>Present:</b>	Miller MacDonald, Howard Warner, Kenny MacDonald, Linda Johnson, George McGee, Ann MacMillan, Catherine Ferguson, Libby Patterson, Susan MacAulay, Norma Netherton, Andrew Walker, Ann MacDonald, Ishbel Walker, Anne Bird, Peter Bird, Lizzie Dorrian, Michelle Gray.
<b>Apologies:</b>	Allan Smithyman
<b>Absent:</b>	

Agenda Item		Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1	Previous Minutes	HW informed that these were available but were in note format as the last meeting was the one involving S6 pupils and parents.			
2	SQA	<p>HT informed parents about the good results the school had achieved and the fact that Sgoil Lionacleit's results were significantly better than the virtual comparator. The "virtual Comparator" is a result of analysis of the results of other schools and shows how Sgoil Lionacleit should perform based upon the size of the school, the wealth (or otherwise) of the area, the proportion of people employed and that sort of thing. The HT will produce a summary as soon as the final information is available.</p> <p>The new highers were sat in all subjects except PE. Parents were told that results were very good in some subjects such as Geography and not so good in other subjects. HT pointed out that the Science department had found that the transition to a Broad General Education may have disadvantaged some candidates who chose a different Science in S4. This will not be a problem in future.</p>			

3	<b>Target &amp; Monitoring</b>	<p>HT informed parents that Target &amp; Monitoring progress reports had been sent out to parents of S4, S5 and S6 pupils. HT said that this was the first use of these reports and that he would welcome any comments to improve the reports.</p> <p>Some parents of pupils in these year groups pointed out that it was unclear the meaning and would prefer a short comment, in particular where there was a large difference in working and target grades,</p> <p>HT informed parents that for S1, S2 and S3 there will be no grades and only comments on their reports.</p>			
4	<b>Leavers</b>	<p>HT informed parents that last year's school leavers were nearly all in positive destinations such as a university/college courses, jobs or apprenticeships. AW raised the fact that some pupils would be less academic and seeking apprenticeships rather than college/university places, he highlighted the fact that there is a shortage in Health &amp; Social Care. KMcD informed parents that the new National 5 Care course offered by the College was not very popular with pupils currently, however, popularity of courses varies significantly between years so this should not be taken as a particular issue with the course.</p>			
5	<b>S1 Parents' Evening Refreshments</b>	<p>CF requested volunteers for the S1 Parents' Evening for Wednesday evening to help with refreshments for Parent Council fund raising.</p> <p>DMcP informed the parents that Daliburgh school have an annual sponsored cycle which raises a lot of money, SMcA also informed the parents that Balivanich have an annual walk/run which also raises a lot of money for school funds.</p> <p>Parent Council have also been asked to help set up a school bingo for funds as the person who ran it previously will not be doing so this year.</p>	Parent Council to discuss at a future meeting.		
6	<b>Vacant Maths Post</b>	<p>HW asked HT if there was any further news regarding the Maths posts. HT informed parents that the closing date for 1 Maths teacher was due to close that night and said there had been 3 applicants.</p>			

		<p>HT expects interviews to take place towards the end of October.</p> <p>With regards the PT Maths Teacher, HT informed parents that the Director had not yet released the post.</p>			
7	<b>Mr Smithyman</b>	<p>Parent Council asked about the role of Mr Smithyman, HT informed parents that due to current illness of one DHT, Mr Smithyman had been assigned to help as the school needs 3 senior managers.</p> <p>Mr Smithyman will be looking at e-learning when the opportunity arises.</p>			
8	<b>Big Bang</b>	<p>HW informed parents about the Young Science &amp; Engineering competition, Big Bang, he thought it would be good if someone from school could attend this in Birmingham and said he would pass the details to HT.</p>			
9	<b>Pupil Volunteering</b>	<p>There was some discussion about pupil volunteering, some pupils are already involved in various areas such as Duke of Edinburgh, Balivanich Youth Club. AW said it would be good to have volunteers on the Community Councils, there are 7 Community Councils in Benbecula and Uist.</p>			
10	<b>CAT Tests</b>	<p>LD asked why S1 are having to sit CAT Tests when we have PIEs and PIMs testing. HT informed parents that CAT Tests are a useful measure for future performance at end of S4 and also demonstrate the improvements that children have made since joining Sgoil Lionacleit</p> <p>HT mentioned that the Government are now introducing new tests which will have to be carried out by all schools from 2017.</p> <p>HT also informed parents that PIEs and PIMs only assess literacy and numeracy.</p>			
11	<b>Integrated Children's Service</b>	<p>AW raised the fact that there was an open workshop due soon. AW also raised the fact that fuel poverty was very high in the Western Isles, highest in Scotland, highlighting the fact that many families are struggling to purchase school uniforms and highlighted the fact that food parcels were being distributed in Uist.</p>			

		HT informed parents that clothing grants are still available to help purchase school uniforms.			
12	<b>Workshops on Technical Terms</b>	HT informed parents that PT English is seeking more parental involvement and therefore there will be a workshop for parents early November. The purpose of the workshops is to inform parents about the language used within English questions and teaching that has specific meanings within the subject so that parents could better understand the terms used and therefore a) better support their children and b) better understand their children's reports.  The parents received this initiative very positively and looked forward to other subjects doing the same.			
13	<b>Any Other Business</b>	A senior member of staff in the Co-op had offered bag packing to raise funds, it was felt inappropriate for parent council to raise funds this way but there are a number of school trips coming up and perhaps they would be happy to accept the offer from the Co-op.  Also AMacD informed parents that she is now a member of the National Parent Forum and would give future feedback to SL Parent Council.	Inform Staff of this offer.	CF	
14	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Proposed date of next meeting (AGM) Tuesday 3 November or Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 6.15pm in Room 34.			