

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Minute/Note of Meeting	TITLE	Parent Council Meeting		
	DATE	4 November 2015	TIME	6.15pm
	VENUE	Rm 34		
	DISTRIBUTION			

Present:	Miller MacDonald, Allan Smithyman, Howard Warner, Kenny MacDonald, George McGee, Ann MacMillan, Catherine Ferguson, Anne Bird, Peter Bird, Michelle Gray, Beatrice Wood, Paul Morrison, Iain MacPhee
Apologies:	Libby Patterson, Ishbel Walker, Linda Johnson, Marie Nash
Absent:	

Agenda Item	Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1 Previous Minutes	Minutes from 28 September 2015 agreed.			

2 Senior Leadership Team	<p>Paul Morrison and Iain MacPhee S6 pupils introduced to Parent Council.</p> <p>Iain informed parent council that things had improved between teachers and pupils and relationships were being re-established in particular to the run up to Christmas.</p> <p>They reported that things were going well with Pupil Council. Membership has been rejigged to improve the speed which ideas are put into place. There are now 2 reps per year group rather than two per tutor group: 1 male and 1 female and the Chair rotates giving all members experience in running meetings. This means pupil council reps have more of a leadership role and with the reduction in numbers their meetings are now more efficient and suggestion boxes have been placed in all classes.</p> <p>The S6 have also helped Parent Council serve refreshments to staff</p>			
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		and parents at recent parents' evenings which Parent Council (and parents) much appreciate.			
3	Mr A Smithyman	<p>Allan Smithyman, Education Officer was introduced to Parent Council.</p> <p>He will be taking a step back from the Senior Management Team and carrying out more of a quality assurance role over the next few weeks, working with principal teachers re educational research and learning.</p> <p>He spoke of the good atmosphere in school with children being well behaved and the school being a calm environment during lessons. He referred to John Hattie a New Zealand educationalist who in his publications Visible Learning (2009) and Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximising impact on Learning (2012) states that the number 1 factor for improving attainment is student expectation.</p> <p>He discussed various issues including virtual learning saying that there are various solutions under this banner including distance learning and video conferencing. He is currently working on how we get best use of these across the Western Isles to provide equivalency of access to courses across the area rather than being limited by what is provided in each school. The Nicolson Institute clearly has the most access currently as more than half of the secondary school pupils in the Western Isles attend that school; however, through virtual learning this can be shared.</p> <p>Virtual learning has been pressed into early action between Stornoway and Castlebay because of the lack of any Maths teachers at Castlebay; Hamish Budge has been delivering Maths lessons in this manner with a link between Stornoway and Castlebay. This method was agreed to by Alistair Brown HMIE.</p> <p>The authority offer an incentive package of £8000 for "hard to fill posts". This has been applied to a recent advert for a Maths teacher in Sgoil Lionacleit.</p>			

		He informed Parent Council of the difficulties in filling vacant posts across the Highlands and Islands with 230+ currently vacant posts, with the situation much worst in the Central belt. .			
4	Health & Wellbeing Questionnaire	<p>Head Teacher informed Parent Council of the results from a recent Health & Wellbeing Questionnaire.</p> <p>Mary Galbraith had analysed the results and there were three areas that scored lower than the others. Of these three, the area selected for a concentrated effort at improvement is Respect. This is because it was felt to be an underlying “hearts and minds” factor that could improve others if improved itself; something very much in accordance with Professor Hattie’s research.</p> <p>Beatrice Wood raised the point that the word respect might mean something to parents but a different meaning to children.</p> <p>The school will be seeking views of pupils, staff and parents. The Parent Council will collate the views of parents and the Pupil Council those of pupils to provide the school with coherent inputs to the analysis.</p> <p>To that end, the Parent Council will be issuing all parents with a questionnaire asking them to provide feedback on this specific matter. The Parent Council will review and collate the parents’ responses. Where parents raise issues relating to the pupils’ views, these will be passed to the Pupil Council who will be collating the pupils’ responses.</p> <p>Mary Galbraith will again analyse the responses and a Short Term Working Group will assess the feedback, initiate responses and review ongoing feedback. This feedback, and the effectiveness of any improvements, will be reviewed as quickly as practical in order to allow iterative improvements before the end of the academic year.</p>			

5	Changes to Parent Council Members	There were no changes to members, Howard remains as Chair, Catherine as Vice Chair, George as Treasurer, it was agreed to co-opt Libby Patterson as she no longer has a child at school but is an asset to Parent Council and may well have a child in school in the near future depending on personal circumstances.			
6	Vacant PT Maths Post	Head Teacher informed Parent Council that the vacant PT Maths post is currently being looked at by the Vacancy Panel in Stornoway.			
7	Easter Holidays	One parent had raised the fact that the school were on holidays for Easter weekend back in school for 4 days then Spring holiday, it was discussed but obviously too late to change for next year, it was also highlighted that many other local authorities had the same Easter/Spring break for 2016.			
8	Any Other Business	<p>Various discussions:</p> <p>A link to be inserted into the Parent Council section of Sgoil Lionacleit website for National Improvement Framework.</p> <p>Kenny MacDonald asked Parent Council if anything had been done about organising a fund raising bingo, Parent Council members agreed to meet informally in the near future and invite Donna MacLeod along to give her expert advice on running bingo which she has done very successfully in the past.</p> <p>Parent Council have been asked to offer refreshments at the forthcoming Uist Youth Theatre panto on Thursday 10 December, Friday 11 December and Saturday 12 December, any help would be appreciated, time to be confirmed, and any baking appreciated.</p>			
9	Date of Next Meeting	Proposed date of next meeting Monday 18 January 2016 at 6.15pm in Room 34.			