

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Minute/Note of Meeting		TITLE		Parent Council Meeting			
		DATE		23 May 2016	TIME	6.15pm	
		VENUE		Rm 34			
		DISTRIBUTION :					
Present:	Miller MacDonald, Catherine Ferguson, Libby Patterson, Cllr. Donnie Steele, Cllr. Donald Manford, Mary Walker, Shona McInnes, David Ballantyne, Beatrix Wood, Lizzie Dorrain, Maggie Howarth						
Apologies:	Kenny MacDonald, Ann MacDonald, Andrew Walker, David Blaney, Marion Steele, Linda Johnson, George McGee						
Absent:							

Agenda Item	Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1. Previous Minutes	The previous minutes were agreed after minor amendments			
2. Bus Timetable	<p>PC had heard that changes in the bus timetable mean some children are leaving home at 8.00am and not returning until 6.50pm and this was having a knock on effect in later homework, meals and bed times. PC had concerns that after school activities and supported study were being affected due to the long wait between these finishing and the next bus.</p> <p>Catherine Ferguson said that David Smart was meeting with herself and George McGee via video link in the next few weeks to discuss issues raised. HT also raised concerns that the Grenitote mini bus going North was not big enough to cater for all possible passengers. Donald Manford wanted to know more about times and capacities adding most complaints received were about empty busses. He wondered why the decision had been made for a later bus departure when most people he had spoken with wanted the five o'clock departure. Catherine Ferguson suggested this was a result of a misunderstanding at a consultation meeting. It was thought that the later bus would be an extra service and not in place of the five o'clock bus. Donald Manford suggested meeting should take place in the next few weeks the check that both bus operators and the community would be happy to return to the five o'clock departure and Youth Council input would be valuable, PC agreed that the request bus service needed to be more flexible, but it also needed to be used or else it could be lost. It was suggested that consultations needed to be held on how best to engage with the community on bus timetabling and requests and what the budgets would allow.</p>			

3	E-Sgoil nan Eileen Siar Donald Manford informed PC that issues had arisen at Castlebay parent council meeting about e-sgoil benefits versus threats and whilst there was a wish to embrace new technologies there were also fears that e-sgoil tuition was a way of replacing teachers in small schools. PC agreed with these worries and Lizzie Dorrain said as both a parent and a teacher she knew nothing about e-sgoil and was concerned how it would be delivered and the implications for teaching staff. HT said he was not an authority on e-sgoil but was given to understand that the service had to be as good or better than currently being delivered. It was not suggested it would replace teachers but could be used as a fill in as, for example, when it took a long time to attract a new biology teacher. Largely, however, it would be used to enhance the range of subjects available to senior students. While PC agreed in theory the extra options were exciting, a critical assessment of how these would be delivered, including funding and investment, was needed. Catherine Ferguson said she would contact Castlebay PC and write to the director of HMI voicing the above concerns plus others including class numbers, how teachers interact with e-sgoil delivery, how to assess the service and seek assurances that it was not there to replace teachers.	CF to contact Castlebay PC and director of HMI regarding concerns with E-Sgoil.	
4	Draft Standard and Quality Report HT said the Draft Standard Report used to be a 20 page document which had now been condensed to make it more accessible. The document addressed how the school was performing and improvements made.	HT to post final Standard and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan on website.	
5	AOB South Uist Agricultural Society had asked the PC if they would provide a trophy for the Under 21 Sheep Class. The Council agreed to do this.		

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6	Date of next meeting	TBA			