

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Note of Meeting	TITLE	Parent Council Meeting		
	DATE	Monday 20th June 2022	TIME	6.30pm
	VENUE	Sir E Scott School		
	DISTRIBUTION	All Members & MC Ferguson, Head of Education.		
Present:	Andrew Coghill (Chairperson), Kirsty Donnelly (Acting Head Teacher), Pauline Macleod (DHT), Rhoda Campbell, Alison Macdonald, Rachel MacDonald, Ian Murdo Macdonald, Gordon Macleod, Adam Johnson (Acting Depute Head Teacher), Kathleen Duce, Donella Barker, Cllr Paul Finnegan. Catherine Macleod and Mr William MacDonald - joined meeting online at 7pm			
Apologies:	Cllr Grant Fulton, Anna Morrison, Ruth Miller, Donna Macleod, Finlay Macleod.			

Agenda Item			Action	Who?	When?
1	Welcome	AC welcomed everyone to the meeting.			
2	Apologies	As noted above.			
3	Minute of 25th April 2022	The minute of the meeting held on 25.04.22 was agreed to be an accurate record – proposed: K Duce, seconded: G Macleod.			
4	Matters Arising	Dedicated Email Address for PC The following email address has been set up for the Parent Council parentcouncilses@gmail.com			
		Traffic Speed Outside School AC mentioned parents have raised concerns regarding the speed of traffic outside the school. KD is in discussions with the council regarding pupil crossing and will raise this matter with them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise matter of traffic speed with local council. 	KD	ASAP
		School Buses – Travel Sickness AC mentioned that parents have requested if pupils are prone to sickness while traveling on school transport, they are to be seated at the front of the bus. PML also mentioned this should also be mentioned on pupil medical records and encouraged parents to inform the school, therefore staff would be aware and ensure they are seated appropriately on school transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind pupils if they feel sick to sit at the front of the bus 	PML/KD	As required
5	Head Teacher's Report	Staffing Update Mrs Donna Macleod will be finished in the Sgoil Àraich on Friday 21 st June 2022. This post has been advertised and 4 members of staff will be retained. Mrs Rebecca Maclean will also be retiring at the end of this session and will be replaced by Mr Iain A MacSween. Mr Alan Rudd and Mr Malcolm MacDonald will cover the Technical post. Mrs Sheena MacRitchie will cover Thursday's and Fridays for the HE post. The remainder of the time will be covered by supply staff and e-sgoil. Mr Iain Morrison (French) and Mrs Emma Mackinnon (Music) have accepted permanent positions in the school.			

5	Head Teacher's Report.....continued	<p>KD provided a brief overview of recent and upcoming events in the school. Leavers Assembly was held on Thursday 16th June followed by Leavers Dinner and Prom on Friday 17th June. These were a great success and enjoyed by all. Primary Prizegiving is on Tuesday 21st June and the P7 leavers dinner will be held on Monday 27th June. The Primary Funday is on Thursday 23rd June and Sgoil Àraich trip to Adventure Island will take place on Friday 24th June. Activities Week in the Secondary department will take place from Wednesday 22nd June until Monday 27th June. Some pupils have participated in a Pipe/Brass Band trip to the mainland which was very successful. Mr David Murray will also accompany pupils on an overnight Gaelic Football Trip to Inverness on Tuesday 21st June. KD thanked everyone who was involved in organising the recent Mod Na Hearadh, it was great to see the children performing on stage. Pupils also participated in the YPI event, with £3000 being presented to Women's Aid. KD shared plans with members for the Nurture area in the Secondary and the Barista Café in the balcony area. Support from members may be required in the near future with these ventures. There are changes as to how PEF is being evaluated, it now needs to be specific and focussed. This will no longer be available to fund the fruit which is issued to pupils weekly.</p> <p>AC mentioned concerns from parents the Sgoil Àraich Play Leader's Post was shared on a personal facebook account before parents were informed she was leaving. This was discussed briefly and it was agreed in future parents will be informed of any staff changes before it is announced on social media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents to be informed in future of staff changes. 	KD	As required
6	Parental Involvement – RC & KDU	<p>Recent Parent Drop in session was held on Tuesday 7th June in the Softplay centre, unfortunately there was not a large number of parents attending.</p> <p><i>School Video Advert</i> – Parents had mentioned this would be a good idea. Hamish Scott is unable to help out. RC mentioned the Multi Media Unit in Stornoway who recently did the video for the Nicolson Institute. She will contact them regarding doing the same for Sir E Scott School.</p> <p><i>Activities Week</i> – This has been slightly reduced to 3 days this session, due to the rising cost of activities.</p> <p><i>Fundraising</i> – KDU said fundraising/volunteering could be done in the community centre over the summer with the cafes.</p> <p><i>Communication</i> – Using one platform ie. Groupcall, rather than seesaw is preferred by parents..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Multi Media Unit 	RC	ASAP
7	Financial Update	<p>AC provided an update of accounts. The current balance on 20.06.22 is £1080.52 Primary have been paid £150 for P7 events. 19 Amazon Vouchers have also been purchased by the Parent Council for 19 school leavers.</p>			

8	Director of Education – Harmonisation Timetable	<p>AC welcomed parents of the Parent Forum to attend this part of the meeting. He also welcomed Mr W MacDonald to the meeting via zoom as he was unable to attend in person. More than 20 written Questions had been previously submitted in writing, and opportunity was also given for Questions to be asked from the floor. The following points were made by Mr MacDonald in response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils with Additional Support Needs Discussions with Head Teacher and relevant staff will take place to ensure the needs of all pupils with additional support needs are met. Relevant documentation (AP/IEPs) will also be shared. Support for Learning staff will also be present. Currently looking at implementing this in S5/S6 classes. Working group will be set up over the next few months to discuss this further. The main aim is to give pupils as wide a choice as possible. • Getting it Right for Every Child Working alongside Head Teachers, ensuring all pupils receive the correct support. Ensuring they are getting the choices and courses they want. Challenging those that need to be challenged and monitoring progress throughout the session. It is a different way of learning, although the majority of courses would be face to face. This will also develop their independence. If any parents have any concerns regarding ASN, please get in touch with Mr MacDonald. Reassurances were given that any pupil requiring support would receive it. • Classroom Supervision An appropriate adult with a PVG will be supervising pupils. Hope to build pupils confidence by encouraging independence and responsibility to prepare them for further education. HMI Inspections will have a digital element, need to ensure we are meeting the required criteria. Concerns by the EIS were expressed by parent member, Mr MacDonald respects the teaching profession and will work together with all parties to ensure a good outcome for the pupils. • Recruitment/Housing Current probationers in Sir E Scott School are being given permanent posts. Recruitment enhancements are being offered to staff. They are in talks with North Harris Trust regarding housing and acknowledges it is an issue which they need to address. With regards to the Head Teacher post and offer has been made to a candidate, they are awaiting formal documents to be finalised. Unfortunately, no formal announcement can be made until this has been completed. Hoping to take up post in October 2022. • Delayed Implementation for S4 Pupils Mr Macdonald confirmed the Harmonisation Timetable will be delayed for S4 pupils until next session. There are a large number of pupils going onto positive destinations, although there is a high drop out rate and this is due to resilience. He listed the number of new courses that have been access and are available. Chemistry classes in SES are currently taught via e-sgoil. A parent expressed concerns that pupils were not always supervised during these lessons. KD assured parents this will be addressed and all timetabled classes will have a member of staff present in the room in future. 			
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8	Director of Education – Harmonisation Timetable..... ...continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Pupils Taught Out with School Concerns were expressed if a young person chooses all subjects that are taught online, what is to stop them from learning at home or elsewhere. Mr MacDonald mentioned the Scottish Government manifesto stated that a young person can learn anywhere at anytime. They can also attend the Highland Virtual Academy. KD also mentioned the ethos of the school which has a major impact on pupils learning.</p> <p>• Class Sizes Very small classes are likely to reduce opportunities for resilience. Running a high number of small classes reduces the number of subjects available to them. Have to address the issue that the Western Isles has the highest drop out of further education students in Scotland and this needs to be addressed. Some young people are naturally resilient, but this is not always the case.</p> <p>• Practical Subjects Moving away from knowledge based to skills-based education, a parent queried how practical subjects would be taught online. When at all possible this will be covered face to face in the classroom with a member of staff.</p> <p>• Audit of Staff Has there been an audit of staff available to teach online. Mr MacDonald will look at this, seeking staff and parent views next session.</p> <p>• Leaver Destination Accountability Schools and Head Teachers work closely together, current data shows that pupils study well online. They are collectively working on young people doing as best as they possibly can. A report on e-sgoil learning will be going to the council tomorrow 22.06.22.</p> <p>• Impact of Mental Health & Wellbeing on Young People Mr MacDonald hopes 70%-80% of lessons will face to face lessons. 20% will be a hybrid mix of learning. Young people so far are coping well. Counselling sessions are available to pupils in school and they will be monitored closely. They do not want to put young people under any undue pressure.</p> <p>• Cost of E-Sgoil Over the last 8 Years E-sgoil have put £1 million into the local economy and is funded by the Scottish Government. E-Sgoil does not cost the Education Department anything.</p> <p>• Teachers Availability/ Incidents of Violence/ Classroom Availability Concerns expressed If there are no teachers for subjects' pupils choose, what is the chance of them going to the Nicolson Institute to be taught. There are no plans to cut teaching posts in SES. A member of staff will be present in the room at all times. EIS have made it very clear they want pupils to be supervised at all times. Any incidents will be dealt with accordingly. KD assured parents there will be space to accommodate all pupils in classes whether in a group or individually.</p> 			
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8	Director of Education – Harmonisation Timetable..... ...continued	<p>Online Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If online learning is so good, why has the Scottish government issued a significant budget to raise the attainment gap following remote learning during Covid19. Mr MacDonald stated this funding has always been available, and this specific funding is being aimed at primary school pupils. Our preferred method of teaching is face to face, although the hybrid approach is the best option for island schools. • Parental concern was expressed that this may have an impact on the Senior phase in Sir E Scott School, that previous parents fought so hard to establish. As pupils may favour face to face learning and opt to attend the Nicolson Institute instead. <p>Mr MacDonald will try and ensure the needs of every pupil is met, and is happy to address any other issues or queries raised by parents. He encouraged parents to contact him directly with any concerns they might have uilleammacdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk AC thanked Mr MacDonald for attending the meeting.</p>			
9	AOCB	<p>There was no other AOCB.</p>			
10	Date of Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting will be arranged next session. AC thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.00pm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		