



Sgoil an Iochdair Parent Council – Meeting
19:00hrs Thursday 19th February 2026 @ Sgoil an Iochdair

Minutes

Present: Mel MacDonald-Butler (Chair), Phillipa Rewaj (Secretary), Bellina Currie, Joan MacDonald (Head of School), Louise McBride, Margaret Campbell, Marion Isa Bell, Oni Fraser, Donald Macleod (Chief Officer for Education and Children's Services – CNES)

Via Teams: Andrew Shaw; Michelle Cameron

Apologies: Martin Butler (Treasurer)

• Item	Action
Treasurer's Update: - Opening balance (20/11/25) £4746.19 - Income since 20/11/25: £500 - MacLennan's MADL fund - Expenditure since 20/11/25: £2414.75 £400 – School Christmas Party Donation £2000 – Playground upgrades £14.75 – bank charges - Closing balance £2,831.44	
Gaelic: - Some children from the school have been invited to take part in a ceilidh organised by Ceolas and Tagsa Uibhist at Talla an Iochdair for Seachdain na Gaidhlig on 27th February. - P6 and Sgoil Araich will be working together on story telling also as part of Seachdain na Gaidhlig. "Hoolie in the Hall" ceilidh to take part at Balivanich hall for all Uist primary schools on 27th March	
Child Protection: - Sgoil Araich have been continuing to use the NSPCC PANTS resources - P1-7 have also been using the NSPCC Speak out Stay safe resources featuring Ant and Dec.	
Playpark and Ballpark: - Playpark: - Tech Services still waiting for replacement rocking seat, but have not advised that play park can't be used in the meantime.	

○ Neil to inspect to see if further cleaning etc. needing done. ○ Rota of children to be drawn up to try out equipment in small groups. Discussion with children re appropriate age use of pieces of equipment. ○ Aiming to use fully once weather improves. • Ballpark: ○ Old basketball hoops have been taken down ○ Waiting for better weather to start installation of new surface	
Mod Uibhist: • Dates planned: ○ 23rd May for instruments and dancing (unconfirmed) ○ 28th May for other competitions ○ 29th Mod Ceilidh • 23rd/24th May also Holy Communion weekend • Christine Mitchell has completed PVG to help with a school band entry	
Pathway: • Progressing quickly. Needs some road markings painted for crossing points. Self closing gate to be installed where path meets school. • Joan suggested holding a fun run on new pathway in better weather/towards end of school year. School pupils to do more testing with their daily mile. • Request for road markings to be put on the tarmac section of the pathway to help with Bikeability training when new playground markings go down. • Playground markings hopefully in place mid/end March when weather slightly warmer. Validated Self Evaluation (VSE): • School and external education officers review and verify the school's own self-assessment of its performance, quality, and outcomes • Approaching soon – looking for parents/carers to take part in an evaluation meeting. Thursday 5th March at 14:45. Joan to send out invite. • Focus topics: Safeguarding, learning and teaching, attainment.	
Sgoil Araich hours: • Donald MacLeod informed meeting that CNES has approved full review of childcare services across Western Isles • Need to consult with families with young children/babies • Need to also look at staffing ratios, equipment, physical building requirements • Likely to happen in summer 2026 • Have been working in conjunction with ADAP (Addressing Depopulation Action Plan) on this, and also looking to increase capacity for summer (Motiv8) activities and after school care provision.	
Communication • Introduction of new Groupcall app Eduspot. • Stats suggest that uptake of the app is good, though not all families using yet.	

• Reminder to be sent out re use of app. • Parent council members in attendance reported finding a few initial teething issues, but since issues resolved, very positive.	
Quiz Night • Look into holding a fundraising quiz. Need to consider timing with other community events as last quiz was low attendance.	
First Aid • First aid training has been arranged for parents involved in youth and football club – spare spaces to be opened up to other community groups • 14th March, 10:00 – 15:00 at Sgoil an Lochdair	
Sports Day/Evening • Following last year's rescheduled sports day and discussion with families, event to return to evening to allow more families to attend. • Date still to be finalised. • Aiming to have some kind of food on offer afterwards – takeaway curry fundraiser suggested.	
Awards • Rights Respecting Schools Gold award; • Eco Schools Green Flag Award • Health and Wellbeing – SportScotland Gold Sport award • All achieved this year! Thanks to teachers and pupils for all their hard work	
Hall upgrade • Progress currently stuck with Tech Services. Specification has been done and submitted. • Also requested to have roof light in entrance fixed • Donald MacLeod stated he would investigate hold up with hall upgrades and report back.	
Club updates/PVGs • Youth club ◦ planning trip to screen machine, followed by food at the Dark Island afterwards. ◦ Costs - £216 for screen machine, £330 for food. ◦ Groupcall to go out for numbers ◦ Youth Club to finish at Easter holidays • Music club ◦ Numbers attending have been reducing – need to consider affordability/viability ◦ Need to send out survey to families before next session for feedback and what people would like to see ◦ Padraig Morrison has offered to service instruments • PVGs ◦ Discussion around tighter regulations of PVGs and whether helpers require PVG for each school connected club (i.e. youth club, football club, club ciuil) or one is suffice	

○ Donald MacLeod advised his understanding was if a group was under the CNES/school banner, then one CNES sponsored PVG should be ok.	
Fundraising • P7 trip Fairburn might not have capacity for subsequent year groups as some larger groups coming up. • May need to explore other options – this may have fundraising implications if costing is higher. • Chairs Meeting At last Parent Council Chairs Meeting there was talk of working together as one Western Isles Parent Councils group for a large funding application (e.g. SSEN). • Would need to come up with a tangible fundraising purpose and goal to be successful. • Bingo funds Joan informed that fundraising from bingo last year has recently been used to purchase 16ft Canadian canoe to allow younger pupils to get out on loch in addition to the kayaks for older pupils.	
AOB • New laptops ordered for pupils, funded by Parent Council. • Joan asked Donald MacLeod regarding possibility of upgrading teaching laptops – Donald informed currently upgrading secondary school devices before then moving on to primary schools. • Scottish Government funding: £56 million budget for ASN, CNES gets approximately 0.5% based on population. Stipulates that every primary aged child should have access to breakfast club. Also unspecified funding to be given towards afterschool activities. • Scottish Government Residential bill: statutory requirement for children to have at least one residential trip during primary. • Parking & roundabout: puddle in carpark restricting parking. People frequently parking in turning circle instead. Queries Donald MacLeod regarding possibility of repair to carpark. • Concerns regarding speed of traffic on road outside school. Consult with Road Safety Officer regarding signage, tying in with opening of new pathway.	
Date of next meeting 14th May 7pm	