

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR Department of Education & Children's Services Minute/Note of Meeting	TITLE	SUAT P.C. meeting		
	DATE	19th March 2024	TIME	18:00
	VENUE	SUAT		
	DISTRIBUTION			

Present:	Conor Lawless, Claire Imlah, Alana MacInnes, Emily Durie, Sarah Jane MacSween, Dianne Morrison, Heather Wheeler, Corinna Krause, Anne Robertson
Apologies:	Florence Granville
Absent:	

Agenda Item		Summary	Action	Who?	When?
1	Welcome	Meeting opened by CL welcoming everybody.			
2	Apologies	Florence Granville			
3	Minute from Previous Meeting	Minute from previous meeting – proposed (ED) and seconded (CL).			
4	Matters Arising	All previous matters arising have been actioned. The Parent Council bank balance is at £3065.00. CI has applied for online banking.			
5	Gardening	<p>AR expressed her thanks to the PC and Councillors who provided her wages for February & March. Funding from CNES is being looked at from April onwards. AR would also like to thank Mr Dingwall for providing wood panels for Gaelic signs and for agreeing to build an honesty stall. It is hoped the stall will be in place by May. The recent appointment of a new Janitor is already proving to be a big help in the garden and grounds – AR would like to thank Paul for his help.</p> <p>All classes are preparing for upcoming growing season – using our own compost, the pupils are seed sowing, potting and planning early potatoes. A Garden Open Afternoon/Eco Day is being arranged (suggested date 17.05.24 tbc) where children will have vegetable and flower seedlings for sale and can show parents what has been happening around the garden.</p> <p>An interim payment of £1141 from the Co-op Community Fund is now in a separate Post Office account. There should be a final payment around November.</p> <p>AR suggestion of creating an area of the garden dedicated to the late Celia Macsween has been approved by staff. Children will be working on creating 'Celia's Flower Garden' where they will focus on cut flowers.</p>	Garden/Eco day – date tbc	AR/ School	May 2024

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	<p>In August 2023 a group of children were filmed working in the school garden for a new series on BBC Alba. Lios Mhairi (Mairi's Hebridean Garden) will be starting on BBC Alba on Thurs 4th April at 8.30pm. The filming from SUAT will be shown in the last programme of the series which will be on Thurs 2nd May 2024.</p>			
6	<p>Food during break times</p> <p>The school have been looking at ways to provide a healthy snack at breaktimes. Pupils made up a chart showing their preferences – breadsticks, fruit, oatcakes, rich tea and digestive biscuits and rolls with butter were suggested. A payment of £5 per term from parents was suggested, through cash or possibly a QR code. An update will be provided next term.</p>	<p>Decide on break time snacks/costings</p>	<p>School</p>	<p>Next term</p>
7	<p>Fundraising</p> <p>It was suggested that the Parent Council set up a refreshment stall at the Sports Day (12th June 2024, 9.30am) to raise funds.</p> <p>A list of important dates is to go out to parents rather than just the online calendar.</p>	<p>PC discuss at next meeting.</p> <p>Important dates to be sent to parents</p>	<p>Parent Council</p> <p>SJM/EM</p>	<p>23rd Apr 2024</p> <p>Asap</p>
8	<p>Lionacleit Academic Performance</p> <p>CL met with Gordon Young, Head Teacher of Lionacleit School. There was discussion around low levels of pupils who stay until the end of 6th year. GY explained there is a high percentage of pupils who undertake an apprenticeship, further education or employment. CL stated that reasonable academic performance at Lionacleit is important to allow young people leaving Lionacleit compete in the local housing market.</p> <p>Bullying was also discussed – GY said there is a Bullying Policy in place and they have not had to exclude any pupils because of bullying.</p> <p>There was discussion at the PC meeting on the lack of support that pupils (and parents) have when choosing career paths and their subject choices in Lionacleit. When pupils are choosing their subjects, the columns may clash so unable to pick their preferred choices. This is potentially due to staffing.</p> <p>Gaelic stats are low in Lionacleit School & GY reported having to prioritise having teachers in place, in the face of CnES yearly cuts to staff budget, over making sure that teachers in Lionacleit are Gaelic speakers. SJM and DM were concerned to hear that Gaelic Medium could end for S2 pupils if it doesn't fit around their subject columns.</p>	<p>Discuss Gaelic learning with GY.</p>	<p>SJM</p>	
9	<p>Results of RME Questionnaire</p> <p>There were 23 responses to the RME questionnaire (from parents of 66 children currently enrolled at SUaT) with mixed results. 23 out of 66 responses was a low turnout (35%) for the questionnaire. 12 out of 23 who responded are satisfied with the delivery of RME, and there was a strong message that parents would like to see less Chaplain involvement during the school day. SJM and DM reviewed their assembly timetable and plan to have more child and teacher led assemblies with Chaplain led assemblies made less frequent.</p> <p>SJM explained that there is a strong focus on faith in the community and the school need to</p>			

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	<p>be mindful of this. However, it was raised by PC member that strength/importance of faith in parents and children currently in the school does not seem to match that of the community generally (c.f. low level of response to RME questionnaire) and that assemblies and RME curriculum should reflect parents' beliefs and preferences specifically, rather than those of the community generally.</p> <p>All responses were 'yes' to being aware of parents right to removing their child from religious observances, and all but 1 response was aware that they could withdraw their child from the teaching of RME. However a PC member was worried their children would be singled out and judged for being different if they did not participate. SJM explained that would not happen and that the school need to be sure that parents are fully aware of what is involved in the RME curriculum and what they are removing their children from.</p> <p>It was suggested that a specific working group meet to discuss further, out with the Parent Council meeting.</p>	Meeting to be arranged.			
10	Chromebooks	<p>16 Chromebooks have been secured for SUAT. This is part of a rolling programme where it is hoped that all teachers and children will have access to their own Chromebook to use in class (1-2 year programme). DM highlighted advantages of the Chromebook and how useful they would be. CL questioned the internet speed at the school – DM will to a speed test.</p> <p>SJM asked if the Parent Council could contribute £550 so they could purchase 2 more – approved.</p>	Carry out internet speed test	DM	ASAP
11	Awesome Christian Fiction	<p>RME materials in the school are quite outdated. SJM asked if the Parent Council could contribute £100 to help towards the cost of purchasing new books? 'Awesome Christian Fiction' company provide stories/illustrations tied to biblical stories/references. SJM will send the link for the books to the PC before a decision is made.</p> <p>It was suggested that books/materials that reflect everything in the RME curriculum are purchased, not just ones with a Christian focus. Alternatives/suggestions will be looked into by members of the PC.</p>	<p>Link for the books to be sent to PC.</p> <p>Materials/resources suggestions to be sent.</p>	SJM PC	ASAP
12	Children's Gaelic Bibles	A small number of Children's Gaelic Bibles were previously issued for free. If anyone would like a copy, please speak to SJM.	Enquire about Children's Gaelic Bibles	SJM	
13	Cost of the School Day	SJM shared a document that tracks all potential costs involved with different stages of school/activities outwith school etc. This was last updated approx. 6 years ago so it was suggested that a small group could get together to capture updated information. This is a beneficial activity/document as the Uniform Exchange was set up as a result of this.	<p>Information to be shared with CL.</p> <p>Group to get together to work on 'Cost of the School</p>	SJM	

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			Day'		
14	Parent Questionnaire	A questionnaire will be sent electronically to gather parent and pupils views on various aspects of the school. This will be sent to PC beforehand for any suggestions/amendments.	Draft questionnaire to be sent to PC to review.	SJM	
15	Sumdog	Sumdog expired at the end of February. The annual fee is £414.00. PC were asked if they could pay for the renewal? This is a great assessment tool for teachers and a homework task for children. DM will discuss with staff as it is important there is a lot of usage to make it worth the cost.			
16	Curriculum Rationale	SJM, DM and CL to meet regarding this. Information with be shared.	Meeting to be arranged.	SJM, DM, CL	
17	AOB	ED got good feedback from her questionnaire. Results will be shared with PC.	Questionnaire results to be shared with PC.	ED	
18	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 23 rd April 2024 at 6.00pm			