



AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Tuesday 14 September 2021
6:30pm**

Present:	Valerie Nicolson (Head Teacher – AHS), Kenny Pottinger (Chair), Carrie McDonald, Dawn Ratter (Clerk), Edwin Irvine (Staff Rep), Barney Redman (Depute Head Teacher – AHS), Helen Budge (Director – Children’s Services), Jerry Edwards, Hilary Burgess, Amanda Hawick, Gowri Saravanan, Anna Moar, Vicky Gowans
Apologies:	Hazel Shearer, Ayesha Huda, Jim Anderson, Marianne Clark, Shona Manson, Helen Kerr (Staff Rep), Robin Calder (Executive Manager – Children’s Services)

Agenda No	Matters Arising	Information / Action	Person(s) Responsible
1	Welcome and Introduction by Chairperson		
2	Minutes of 12 May 2021	The minutes of meeting 12 May 2021 were approved by JE and seconded by CM.	
3	Matters Arising	<p><u>Cashless Payment Update</u></p> <p>A briefing paper was shared by email as an update (attached). H Budge noted due to other commitments during the pandemic the implementation of a cashless payment system in the AHS has not progressed as quickly as they would have liked. The current position is that a system has been identified and the funding has been secured to move forward with the purchase. The briefing paper states an implementation date of August 2022, however, H Budge confirmed SIC Children’s Services are committed to implement the system as quickly as possible. In terms of the feedback around cash handling due to COVID, a contactless card machine has been installed and is working well. However, this is not addressing the issues around FSM pupils. DR sits on the project board for the new cashless catering system and explained how the system would work for pupils. The identified system will link in with ParentPay which is currently used in all other schools in Shetland. ParentPay has been used</p>	

by AHS parents to pay for Instrumental Instruction and Islesburgh Out of School Club Fees. Pupils will have access to an app on their mobile phone or tablet device where they can pre-order a meal, or they can order at the till points, hopefully using their Young Scot card to pay for their meals. Parents will upload credit onto pupil cards through ParentPay. ParentPay links into the school management system, SEEMIS which holds all pupil records and will identify the pupils in receipt of FSM. Credit will automatically be uploaded onto FSM pupil cards. This will be a huge benefit for the pupils as currently, due to the AHS operating a cash cafeteria FSM awards are unable to be backdated to pupils. Currently in the AHS, pupils in receipt of FSM are provided with an ID card which is presented at till points to confirm their entitlement. H Budge noted she is fully committed to implementing the cashless system into the school as soon as possible.

JE asked H Budge if she could recall why a cashless catering system was not introduced at the time of the new build. H Budge explained it was felt too much for the staff to introduce at the time. VN noted it has been a long aspiration for the school to implement a cashless catering system and they are committed to moving forward with the project.

JE added this would be a huge benefit and a wonderful life skill for pupils in the Support for Learning department who may not be able to deal with cash/money, to buy their lunch in the school using a prepaid card.

JF noted there is a greater, underlying issue that stigma exists in the first place. It would be good to see stigma around financial circumstances eradicated for everyone and offer the young people at the school some insight into how financial circumstances vary for a multitude of reasons. It would be interesting to explore what can be done to educate young people in order to alleviate the stigma. AH noted she is delighted to see JF take an interest in this topic. VN and AMS (Depute Head Teacher) are meeting with Keri Ratter from the Anchor Early Help Team later this week to explore how they can further develop the work carried out in Sound Primary School, into the secondary setting, supporting pupils and families who are facing financial hardship. AH noted it is fantastic to see the work Anchor has done in Sound be expanded into the secondary.

Transition

The P7 transition day was cancelled due to a COVID outbreak in the community. All primary pupils had already had their after school visit into the school. VN noted they posted out the new S1 timetables all pupils before the Summer which gave pupils and parents the opportunity to

		ask any questions prior to the start of the new term. Overwhelmingly, it has been a positive start to the new term for S1 pupils. Pupils have found their way around the school very quickly.	
4	Head Teachers Report	<p><u>School Roll</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school roll is the largest it has been since the oil era with 972 pupils. • 104 pupils are placing requests from out with the school catchment area. <p><u>Covid-19 Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full range of mitigations continue to be employed throughout the school as advised by Scottish Government, local authority and NHS Shetland. • Compliance with face masks is very good around the school. • 'Warn and Inform' letters are sent by the school when instructed by NHS/SIC, following an advised template. • As at 13.09.21, there were 7 pupils recorded as positive and 14 pupils are recorded as being at home associated with PCR testing in the household. • SIC co-ordinated work experience for S3 is on hold for a second year running, although there may be some scope for tailored individual placements available for senior pupils. • There are a number of limited revision classes and lunchtime clubs being offered. • Staff are updating MS Teams with class work for pupils for all subject areas. <p>The next update from Scottish Government is due at the end of September. VN noted they will review the S1 Parents' Evenings this term following the update. If it is not an option to hold parents evenings in school this term, the monitoring report will be brought forward to this term and they will look to hold the parents evening next term. H Budge added with the current COVID numbers in Shetland it is unlikely there will be any change to guidance until after the October holidays.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher of Modern Studies (1.0 FTE established) – Mr Gomes appointed. • Teacher of Geography (temporary) – Mr Shillinglaw (probationer). • Principal Teacher of Geography/History – Mrs Thomason is retiring at Christmas 2021, and recruitment will soon proceed. <p><u>'You said, we did': School Improvement Planning 2021-22</u> See attached.</p>	

JE asked how the SEB Support Services will be different from the current set up. VN explained in previous years there was a department in the school that took a tailored approach to supporting individual children who were not managing with mainstream education due to a varying range of social and emotional factors. Over time that department was cut and merged into the Support for Learning department. The school has identified this as a gap. Mrs Harpe has been appointed to lead this service. This will include tailored support e.g. counselling, bereavement counselling, a quiet place to be, anger management, etc. It will be part of the Support for Learning department but will focus on pupils who are finding it hard to progress at school and looking at aspects their lives which might prevent them from accessing education. AH asked if the school have seen an uptake seeking additional support. VN reported it is a very new service within the school and they are only in the first term, therefore, there are no statistics as yet. . The first point of contact for pupils will be their Pupil Support teacher and then if necessary, a referral will be made to Mrs Harpe's team.

SQA Attainment 2021

Mr Barney Redman, Depute Head Teacher and SQA co-ordinator talked through the key points this year. A full report is prepared for our Standards and Quality Report/School Improvement Plan published at the end of September each year.

The Alternative Certification Model (ACM) for 2021 was based on professional judgement but the key phrase this year was on demonstrated attainment and making sure all pupils could show exactly the level of work they were working at. This year there was a lot more quality assurance carried, both locally and nationally and a huge amount of work done locally between schools.

- Certification at N1 to N4

- Certification was based on SQA assessments and coursework as in previous years.
- Certification remains strong at National 1 to 4 with Support for Learning and subject departments working hard to certificate pupils for units and courses appropriate to their level of study.
- Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and extra input from Support for Learning has helped to keep course completion high.

- S4 National 4 and 5

- 86% of S4 pupils attained 5 or more passes at National 4 level.

- 56% of S4 pupils attained 5 or more passes at National 5 level, A to C.
- Pleased to note the National 4 and 5 results remain very good and above the National Average under the Alternative Certification Model.
- All departments followed the guidance from SQA and the Local Authority to submit provisional grades in June based on demonstrated attainment.
- The school were involved in Local and National Quality Assurance exercises

- S5 Higher

- 59% of S5 pupils attained 1 or more passes at Higher level, A to C.
- 40% of S5 pupils attained 3 or more passes at Higher level, A to C.
- 18% of S5 pupils attained 5 or more passes at Higher level, A to C.
- The S5 results published are lower than in previous years for a variety of reasons.
- The A to C pass rates were higher than in 2019, the last exam year.
- All AHS departments followed SQA and Local Authority guidance when compiling provisional results and large input into the Quality Assurance processes.
- The results were all based on demonstrated attainment and the evidence available to make professional judgements in line with SQA guidance.
- Local and National moderation procedures helped teachers to be confident in the assessment process.

- S6 Advanced Higher

- Achievement at Advanced Higher remains steady with 23% of pupils achieving 1 or more Advanced High Awards.

BR noted they haven't had a huge number of appeals this year.

HB thanked BR - really good to see the quantitative detail provided in the report. BR noted percentages provided are based on the pupils who completed the courses and does not include pupils who dropped out during the year.

BR confirmed the current plan for this year is to prepare for SQA exams. The current SQA advice can be viewed on the SQA website - [National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher assessments 2021-22 - SQA](#). The important message for pupils in S4/5/6 is to work hard all year. Most subjects have reduced content this year, with some course work taken out of the curriculum.

VG asked if teachers could recommend revision books for pupils. BR advised pupils to ask class subject teachers for recommendations. HB asked if there is a way pupils can donate

		revision guides they no longer required. VN noted there is a box at the front door of the school for returned books and donations. .	
5	Communication between the Parent Council and wider Parent Forum	<p>This item was added to the agenda for a general discussion on what is going well with Parent Council communication and what could be improved on. It has been a disruptive time for all and difficult to communicate with parents from the wider parent forum. VN noted it is brilliant to have a high number of parent members tonight. VN put out flyers at the end of last term and an email yesterday to the parent forum inviting parents to attend the Parent Council meeting. KP added that in previous years, during more normal times, Parent Members have attended parents evenings serving teas/coffees/biscuits and opening up lines of communication with parents. A Parent Council email address - parentcouncil.ahs@gmail.com - has been set up for parents to contact the Parent Council with any questions they would like to raise.</p> <p>HB asked if an item 'Parental Comments' could added to the agenda, as per the constitution.</p>	DR
7	AOCB	<p><u>Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds</u> SL asked if there has been any discussions around the roll out of the vaccines. VN noted there have been no formal discussions in school, however, they will support and follow any advice provided by Children's Services and NHS Shetland around the roll out. H Budge noted VN and the school staff were very supportive and accommodating around the 16/17 year old roll out.</p> <p><u>University Tour 2021-22</u> There are no trips currently planned for this year. VN noted they are waiting on further guidance from Scottish Government around off island trips. HB asked if an update could be provided to parents prior to the October holidays to allow opportunities for parents and pupils who are visiting the mainland to arrange visits or even a drive by some of the universities. VN added they have had some early discussion with Pupil Support about what can be done virtually. There is one session booked with Aberdeen University on the UCAS application process.</p>	

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 6:00pm.