



AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Tuesday 13 September 2022
6:00pm**

Present:	Valerie Nicolson (Head Teacher – AHS), Kenny Pottinger (Chair), Carrie McDonald (Vice Chair), Marianne Clark, Ayesha Huda, Jerry Edwards, Amanda Hawick, Anna Moar, Gowri Saravanan, Nick McCaffrey, Dawn Ratter (Clerk), AnnMarie Scollay (Depute Head)
Apologies:	Hazel Shearer, Vicki Gowans, Jim Anderson, Andy Thompson, Edwin Irvine, Helen Kerr, Cllr John Fraser

Agenda No	Matters Arising	Information / Action	Person(s) Responsible
1	Welcome	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Office Bearers	A Huda explained the rules in the new constitution. The maximum period a parent can be a Chairperson is four years before taking a break, as good practice. KP will remain as Chair for a final year and CM will remain as Vice Chair.	
3	Teacher Representatives	HK is happy to remain as a Staff Representative. EI is standing down as Staff Representative but is always happy to attend future meetings to feedback on anything mathematical related. VN will ask around the staff for a new representative.	V Nicolson
4	Minutes of 17 May 2022	The minutes of meeting 17 May 2022 were approved by CM and seconded by JE.	
5	Matters Arising	<u>Cashless Catering up-date</u> Cashless catering is up and running. VN thanked central services for their work with the implementation and providing support to the school and canteen staff. The card system is now installed in the AHS Halls and is working universally across the campus. VN said the only negative feedback she has received with regards to the canteen has been related to menu choices. All choices are made to meet the nutritional guidelines from the Scottish Government. An improved queuing system is in place, with better flow through the canteen. KP queried the	

		<p>pricing of meal choices, if choosing items out with the meal deal it can end up being more expensive for less food. DR will bring this up with Neil Beattie.</p> <p><u>Road Safety</u> VN has reminded all parents asking them to respect the Clickimin private road and the access along the front of the building following the last Parent Council meeting and requests from SRT. Road safety has also been discussed with every year group during assembly.</p> <p>VN has been in contact with Neil Hutcheson, Roads regarding the crossing at Clickimin and how to manage pupils crossing at Tesco and the Co-op. Neil noted they can't put in any additional lights at these sites as they are both too close to significant junctions. The road surfacing team are coming to Shetland imminently and Neil is going to explore options for a coloured crossing at Tesco to support pupils to cross at the safest point.</p>	N Beattie
6	Dates and Format of Future Meetings e.g. online, in person, hybrid	<p>All members agreed to try a hybrid meeting for November and then re-assess based on feedback/success. The dates of meetings for 2022/23 were agreed as:</p> <p>Term 2 – Wednesday 16th November 2022 Term 3 – Thursday 2nd February 2023 Term 4 – Wednesday 10th May 2023</p>	
7	Head Teachers Report	<p><u>School Roll</u> At the beginning of September 2022, 1015 pupils were enrolled in AHS, including 133 who lived outside the catchment area. Around 13% of the school roll is now placing requests. The maximum pupil capacity is 1180.</p> <p><u>Staffing Up-date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Teacher of Business Studies – Mrs Tulloch commenced in post in August. • Teacher of Physical Education – Ms Niven commenced in post in August. • Teacher of Music (Probationer) – Ms Nicol commenced in post in August. • Teacher of Maths and Science (Probationer) – Ms Constable commenced in post in August. • Teacher of Music (Part Time) (Probationer) – Ms Briggs commenced in post in August. • Principal Teacher of Support for Learning – Mr McAdoo is commencing in post next week. • Teacher of RMPS – preferred candidate starting after the October Holidays. • Teacher of Support for Learning (0.8 FTE) – preferred candidate. <p><u>Retirements</u></p>	

- Mrs Philips, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning is leaving her post tomorrow.
- Mr Winks, Teacher of Craft, Design and Technology retired last week.

Vacant posts

- Teachers of Craft, Design and Technology – 2 vacant posts, currently re-advertised.
- Instructor (temporary) – currently advertised to support S1-3.
- Teacher of Physical Education (temporary) – currently re-advertised.

Joseph Walls and Joe Robertson remain in post in the CDT department. Recruitment issues with CDT are not unique to AHS, there are other schools in Shetland and across the highlands and islands struggling to fill posts in this department. VN is delighted to be advertising an instructor post to secure continuity for the junior phase pupils.

AH reported there is frustration amongst pupils with the lack of CDT teachers in the school. Shetland has always been a practical place, with people learning skills and trades. Not all pupils are academic. AH feels this is really crucial, and worries for the pupils who will miss out on these valuable skills. She noted it is vital to have these subjects available to pupils in school. The Instructor post is now advertised and there has been interest in this post. She also noted that the position with CDT teachers is highlands and islands wide, there is a national shortage of technical teachers. Recruitment for the teacher posts is ongoing, currently on round 4.

Primary School Transition (Mrs AnnMarie Scollay, DHT)

AHS welcomed 172 new pupils into S1. Transition has been really successful this year. AMS explained they recently carried out a pupil survey with S1 on the transition experience and this highlights the positive experience from the pupil's perspective.

Mr Redman, Mrs Harpe, Mrs Philips and Mrs Grant are also involved in the transition process, alongside AMS. The process begins at the end of P6 for some pupils on an enhanced transition. AMS starts in January with transition information to the cluster schools. An online information evening for parents is held. After the Easter Holidays, individual primary schools are invited for a tour of the school, after the school day. This is a great opportunity for pupils to meet AMS and VN and also to ask any questions they have before their two timetabled visits in June. A tour was also offered to all P7 parents with around 80 sets of parents attending. A summer school was organised for identified pupils to provide further support with transitioning into S1. AMS had small groups of identified pupils in during lunch times to see how the lunch system works.

Pupil Support staff visited the cluster schools to meet with pupils. It has been great to be able to do this again and have a more normal transition but also carrying forward some learning from Covid times.

During the first timetabled day, there was a real sense that the additional visits made a difference and pupils were more comfortable coming into the school. VN agreed the enhanced transition and the level of one-to-one care AMS has tried to ensure has increased the success of the transition. VN also feels the cluster primary schools have been more effective with communicating the needs of pupils to AMS which has improved the overall experience. This has been one of the strongest transfers of pupil information and support.

Around one third of S1 pupils completed the transition survey. Pupils felt really well prepared and information for attending the timetabled days. Pupils really appreciated being able to see the school at their own pace, with no other pupils around. 86% of pupils felt much happier and less worried after the timetabled visits. The comments were genuinely positive and some really good comments for staff which can feed into future tours/information evenings.

School Calendar

- S6/S1 Peer Support Training was held today.
- S1 Safe Islander – all local emergency services have signed up to work together to provide workshops.
- S6 University Trip – visits have been arranged for Aberdeen, Stirling and Edinburgh. This was offered to all senior pupils who achieved 3 or more Highers in their first sitting.

Standards and Quality Report, 2021-22 and School Improvement Planning 2022-23 (attached)

The Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement plan is now on the website. This includes reporting on how the Pupil Equity Funding was used to support pupils who require some additional support in school.

The school had a friendly recovery visit from Education Scotland before the Summer Holidays. Many of the priorities for the new school year are a result from this visit.

Well Being Information Evening

In partnership with the Parent Council, the school have offered two health themed evenings in recent years before Covid-19. These were well received by those parents/carers who attended.

		<p>VN asked if parents would like the school to offer an online evening, giving access to parents/carers from across Shetland. Possible presenters could include Drugs and Alcohol, Mental Health, Sleep and Resilience, Pupil Support/PSE curriculum in Scottish schools.</p>	
8	Parental Comments	<p><u>Parents Evenings</u> Parents' evenings will return to in person events. Information evenings will remain online to allow more parents to access these.</p> <p><u>Work Experience</u> AH asked if alternative work experience placements will be offered to pupils who missed out on this during Covid. VN explained work experience is co-ordinated centrally through the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) team. The school are waiting on information to be share from DYW on this. Staff are trying to organise tailored work placements, particularly for those in S6 who are looking to leave school.</p> <p><u>Community Goodwill Project</u> AH is involved in a Community Goodwill Project where the prisoners at HM Prison Grampian are making items from recycled wood, e.g. bird boxes, etc. One of the key things for AH is eliminating stigma for pupils have parents who are incarcerated. VN thinks there would be a few teams in the school who have projects that might fit into this. AH will provide more information to the school.</p> <p><u>Cost of Living Crisis</u> There is a lot of talk in the third sector about how community organisations can support vulnerable people during the cost of living crisis. A Huda asked if there is any thought from the school in terms of what measures they might put into place around availability of hot food or people using the facilities in different ways e.g. study clubs after school. VN said she is aware Neil Beattie has some thoughts on how food and access to food could be addressed. Within the school, there have been some sporadic projects. There was an appeal to parents on jackets which had been left in school – these are now being donated to the Anchor for Families project for distribution to families. The school building is open from 7.30am to 8.00pm each day. A Huda asked if the school could share some leaflets with families on Money Worries and any other support that might be available to them.</p> <p><u>Exam Results</u> The school were pleased and relieved with the exam results this year. On the whole pupils performed as well as they were expecting. The appeals process is going to be based on the quality of work the school has produced in terms of assessments rather than how pupils have</p>	A Hawick

		done in these. Barney Redman would be happy to come along and present some information on the results at the next meeting.	
9	AOCB	None.	

DATE OF AGM AND NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 6:00pm.