



## AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Wednesday 16 November 2022  
6:00pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Kenny Pottinger (Chair), Carrie McDonald (Vice Chair), Hazel Shearer, Ayesha Huda, Jerry Edwards, Andy Thompson, Valerie Nicolson (Head Teacher), Barney Redman (Depute Head), Helen Kerr (Staff Rep), Nick McCaffrey (Co-opted Member), Dawn Ratter (Clerk), John Fraser (Councillor)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Amanda Hawick, Anna Moar, Gowri Saravanan, Cameron MacKenzie (Staff Rep)

Agenda No	Matters Arising	Information / Action	Person(s) Responsible
1	<b>Welcome</b>	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
4	<b>Minutes of 13 September 2022</b>	The minutes of meeting 13 September 2022 were approved by A Huda and seconded by CM.	
5	<b>Matters Arising</b>	<p><u>Road Safety</u> VN reported that she had spoken again with Neil Hutcheson, SIC Roads. He had confirmed the resurfacing at Lochside has been completed with anti-slip pro-grip tarmac and they are already seeing a difference with regards to tyre grip along that stretch of road, particularly around the pedestrian crossing. Neil was also pleased to report they had taken on board VN's suggestion of using coloured topping on the tarmac, and have created a coloured pathway across part of the roundabout at Tesco to guide the pupils to cross at the safest point.</p> <p><u>Work Experience</u> SIC Children's Services are currently looking to recruit to a Workplace Co-ordinator.</p>	
7	<b>Head Teachers Report</b>	<p><u>School Roll</u> The school roll today is 1000 pupils. Attendance in the first three weeks of term has averaged 93.1%, 91.6% and 89.5%. S3 and S4 dipped to 87% last week.</p> <p>VN noted some concern has been expressed nationally that, post-Covid, attendance has not yet fully recovered with some children staying at home more readily if they are feeling unwell.</p>	

Staffing Up-date

- Teacher of RMPS – Ms Barry commenced in post.
- Teacher of Support for Learning (0.8 FTE) – Ms Hall commenced in post.

Vacant posts

- Teachers of Craft, Design and Technology – 2 vacant posts, currently re-advertised again. Meantime, the school have recruited to 3 temporary CDT Instructors, to support pupils in S1-3.
- Teacher of Physical Education (temp) – currently vacant. Meantime, Mandy Philips is covering part of this vacancy on supply.
- Teacher of Home Economics – currently vacant and will be re-advertised. Meantime, the school are recruiting to a temporary Instructor or Home Economics position.

Retirements

- Teacher of Support for Learning – Mrs Aitken will retire from her post at Christmas.
- Head Teacher – Mrs Nicolson is seeking early retirement from her post in August 2023. Robin Calder, QIO has started the recruitment process for this post.

JE queried the process for the Head Teacher recruitment and noted the Parent Council will have a leading role to play in the process. There will be Parent Council representation required on the interview process. He noted the policy states the school Quality Improvement Officer (QIO) and the Executive Manager – Schools will both be involved with the interview process and asked how this would be possible as R. Calder, Executive Manager, covers both roles for the AHS. VN will raise these points with SIC Children's Services. KP advised HR and Children's Services have already been in contact regarding the interview process and both Kenny and Carrie, as Chair and Vice Chair of the Parent Council have signed up for this. There will also be Parent Council involvement in the stakeholder group. KP will share further information on this to the Parent Council. JE suggested the information be shared with the whole parent forum.

Parent Council Teacher Reps

Mr Cameron Mackenzie, Principal Teacher of Modern Studies/RMPS, will join Mrs Helen Kerr, Principal Teacher of English, as a teacher rep on the Parent Council. Both Helen and Cameron also have children in the school.

School Calendar

V Nicolson

The school have a meeting with SIC Community Development and Anchor for Families next week, to consider some activity evenings for families in the school. Neil Beattie, Catering and Cleaning – Team Leader is looking into offering some provision for Christmas Dinner.

The school is awaiting further information about a possible strike action by two teacher unions, EIS and AHDS, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Arrangements for Shetland's schools are still to be confirmed. NM confirmed the AHS Halls will remain open to pupils if the strike action goes ahead.

Beanfeast dates have been set and dance bands have been booked:

- S1/2 - 08 December
- S3/4 - 12 December
- S5/6 - 16 December

#### Health and Well Being Information Evening

Barney Redman, Depute Head Teacher has been reviewing the school Health and Wellbeing Policy and has also attended Substance Misuse Affecting Young People Inter-Agency Group meetings. The group initially set up to bring partners together to discuss issues the police were having in Harrison Square. This tied in with the launch of the substance misuse video. This will be shown to pupils in secondary schools. The group involved partners from Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Police Scotland, Social Work and Education. The formation of the group has led to the opening of The Hub through Youth Services which has been a success with a good number of attendants. All representatives on the group were willing to participate in a health and wellbeing event in the school. The Parent Council agreed to arrange an online event around the end of March.

#### South Mainland Transport

As a result of the number of placing requests from the South Mainland, the following measures have been put in place:

Arrival times in the morning: Service 6, Services 6A and feeder service 7 are not leaving earlier, and are arriving at AHS on their new scheduled time, in time for class. School starts at 0850.

Capacity: On Monday 14 November 2022, Shetland Islands Council approved a variation to be made to the Service 6A contract to increase the seating capacity on the bus to 70. This is being progressed as quickly as possible.

V Nicolson

		<p>Cllr Fraser noted the capacity increase should be implemented in 7-10 days.</p>	
	<p><b>SQA Attainment Summary (Barney Redman SQA Co-ordinator)</b></p>	<p>BR provided an overview of attainment following the SQA exam results. There have been various different certification models over the last 3 years therefore the statistics are difficult to compare. BR noted they were pleased to report that last year's results sit above the national averages in every area. Principal Teachers have been attending SMT to discuss results and patterns over the last few years and identifying any improvements to work towards.</p> <p>There were 165 appeals submitted, 77 of these at the pupils request and 88 were sought by staff with pupil permission. SQA are currently working through how they will deal with appeals and exceptional circumstances for next year. The exams and core structures will be the same as last year.</p> <p>BR as SQA Co-ordinator has a huge task of arranging the SQA exams each year, with over 1000 pupils on the school roll. This is a year round process.</p>	
	<p><b>School Meals Update (Neil Beattie, Catering and Cleaning - Team Leader)</b></p>	<p>NB produced a report from the Head Cook, Hazel Johnson. This shows the number of portions left at the end of service each day, showing a selection of meals remaining at the end of each serving. The last serving each day was at 12.50 leaving pupils with 30 minutes to eat their lunch.</p> <p>NB noted there around approximately 41% of pupils taking school meals at AHS which is well above the national average of 20%. NB has been in conversations with Food for Life who have asked for advice on how other high schools could achieve this award. NB noted that most of they have done to achieve this is around menu design and use of fresh local produce.</p> <p>A Huda asked what happens to the remaining portions at the end of each day. NB noted some items are frozen, sandwiches will last a couple of days, some left over vegetables will go into soup, etc. The production waste is very low but there will be some plate waste.</p> <p>Cllr Fraser asked the Parent Council 2 questions in relation to the recent motion on expansion of Universal Free School Meals (UIFSM) to all pupils being presented to SIC Members.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What would be the implications on meal management planning?</li> <li>2. What would be the implications on finding suitable resources to implement UIFSM for all pupils' e.g. staffing, equipment, and kitchen space?</li> </ol> <p>NB felt if UIFSM was to go ahead for all pupils, they wouldn't have the available resources to implement this to all primary and secondary pupils at the same time. He noted they know the model for expanding primary pupils, due to the previous roll outs for P1-3, P4 and recently P5.</p>	

		<p>However, they would have no idea on uptake levels for secondary pupils. With regards to staffing resources, there would be implications around the length of time recruitment processes are currently taking but NB advised he wouldn't be worried about the availability of staff as they are still seeing a good uptake on posts. In terms of food, he wouldn't anticipate any major issues. He would be keen to continue to use as much local produce as possible but would not put pressure on local suppliers, and only ask for what they can manage to produce.</p> <p>Currently, the uptake on UIFSM for P1-5 pupils is 92%.</p> <p>The estimated cost to implement UIFSM for all pupils is £651k. Cllr Fraser added that SIC are currently being challenged by the Audit Commission with the Best Value Audit report to cut its costs accordingly. If the SIC do not achieve this there will be quite radical measures taken against the local authority. Cllr Fraser feels spending this amount of money on extending Free School Meals on an untargeted approach will return a poor cost benefit. Other options presented to the Education and Families Committee were to align the Clothing Grant eligibility criteria to the Free School Meals criteria which would see an additional 154 pupils become eligible for Free School Meals and also to increase the Clothing Grant allowance by 50%, in line with the higher cost of living in Shetland. The combined cost of these 2 options were under £80k. Cllr Fraser feels this is a more sustainable model, with a targeted approach to the families most in need. A further proposal was made at Education and Families Committee for Children's Services to look at the current Clothing Grant income threshold and increase this in line with the additional cost of living in Shetland. NB advised that the UIFSM for P6/7 pupils is in the Scottish Governments plan for the current parliamentary term. They also have a plan to pilot this for S1/2 pupils in the future.</p> <p>KP raised a question around the meal deals on offer in the school canteen. NB explained the meal deal is in place to encourage pupils to eat more fruit. NB will arrange some posters to display in the school to advertise the meal deals and highlight to pupils what is included in the meal deal.</p>	N Beattie
8	<b>Parental Comments</b>	<p><u>Piano Instruction</u></p> <p>A Huda noted concern around the lack of piano instruction, particularly around the online listening aspect of the course. Pupils have been told to complete this through a website and she does not feel this is a suitable solution as it is a substantial part of the Higher exam. She expressed concerns around the period of time Higher pupils have been without an instructor and the implications this may have for the exam.</p>	

		<p><u>Parent Council Bi-annual</u>  Professor Ken Muir, Independent Advisor to the Scottish Government on the replacement of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SAQ) and the reform of Education Scotland attended the Parent Council Bi-annual meeting to provide further information on the national discussion ongoing around Education Reform. VN noted there are possibly some quite significant changes being proposed. Professor Ken Muir visited the school during his visit to Shetland.</p> <p><u>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</u>  KP noted there was a discussion at the Scalloway Parent Council around UNCRC being integrated into Scottish Law next year. This is looking at a young person's rights and not tying these to responsibilities. VN said there are posters displayed around the school, and they have started training sessions with staff. BR added the training was very interesting, reflective training. VN suggested bringing this topic to the next Parent Council meeting.</p>	V Nicolson
9	AOCB	None.	

**DATE OF AGM AND NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 6:00pm.