



**Parent Council**

## AHS Parent Council Meeting Minute & Action Tracker

**Thursday 22 February 2024  
6.00pm**

<b>Parent Members:</b>	Fiona Nicholson (Chair), Kenny Pottinger, Hazel Shearer, Jerry Edwards, Gowri Saravanan,
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Robin Calder (Head Teacher – AHS), Dawn Ratter (Clerk/Treasurer), Nick McCaffrey (Co-opted Member), AnnMarie Scollay (Depute Head Teacher), Cllr Neil Pearson, Cllr Stephen Leask
<b>Apologies:</b>	Carrie Macdonald, Marianne Clark, Ayesha Huda, Amanda Hawick, Anna Moar, Susan Williamson, Amy Sandison (Teacher Rep), Cllr John Fraser, Cllr Gary Robinson

<b>Agenda No</b>	<b>Information / Action</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <u>Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 12 September 2023</u> The minutes were approved by KP and seconded GS.  <u>Notes of Meeting – Tuesday 28 November 2023</u> The notes were agreed by all members present.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> None.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Head Teachers Report (attached)</b> <u>Staffing Update</u> There are currently gaps in staffing for PE and Music. Supply cover remains to be very limited which results in significant pressure on internal cover. Currently, PE and Music classes are being covered by staff from other departments within the school. The school will shortly be advertising for temporary Instructors to cover these vacancies.	

	<p>An Instructor will need a basic level of qualifications and it is desirable that they have experience in the subject area and experience with working with children. Instructors can only deliver lessons up to the end of the Broad General Education to the end of S3. Instructors are currently only delivering practical subjects in school.</p> <p>Children's Services are working with colleagues in Workforce Development to encourage members of staff who would like to progress onto the PGDE qualification to become a teacher through the Grow Our Own Teachers programme.</p>	
5	<p><u>Pupil Safety and Pupil Health and Wellbeing – the development of the school action plan following the last parent council meeting (attached)</u></p> <p>RC spoke through the document explaining the school have developed this following the concerns raised back in October 2023.</p> <p>Section 3.(d) – JE queried the bullet point regarding pupil weekly PSE classes for all pupils. RC will update the document to provide more clarity around how pupils attending the Support for Learning base are support through PSE.</p> <p>FN asked how children who are Home Educated are supported. RC explained they are primarily educated at home. However, they will have local authority input once or twice a year. There are also pupils who may struggle to engage with school and these pupils will be supported by the school.</p> <p>There were 14 actions identified in the previous paper presented at the November meeting. RC spoke through these actions and updated parent members on the progress and next steps.</p> <p>Parent members are encouraged to feedback any comments or questions they may have to RC.</p>	RC
6	<p><u>Feedback from the Parents and Carers Survey, November 2023 (attached)</u></p> <p>The Parents and Carers Survey issued in November contained questions which reflected some of the recent concerns raised around pupil safety and bullying, as well as incorporating some of the Education Scotland questions asked before school inspections. RC explained they have found the survey a valuable experience to go through.</p> <p>On a whole the responses were relatively positive.</p> <p>There were some very positive comments around learning and teaching, environment, support for learning, the role of individual teachers, curriculum, transitions, parents evening, lunch times and the library.</p>	

	<p>There were concerns raised about bullying and violence in school and the impact on young people, vaping and substance use and also around the use of mobile phones in schools.</p> <p>One thing that did come out of the survey is that the school have work to do in terms of supporting parents and carers and their understanding of how the school manage behaviour. There is a view from some of the responses that the school isn't tough enough and discipline needs to be firmer. At the meeting in November, the school staff tried to explain how they have to understand the trauma some children have experienced and the additional support needs that children have while managing behaviour.</p> <p>RC would like to reassure parents and carers that they are not turning a blind eye. The school have high standards of behaviour and expectations but how they deal with the challenges and difficulties has to be child centred and trauma informed. It can be frustrating for parents and carers to understand how the school have dealt with bullying as often the school can't go into details when responding to parental concerns due to confidentiality and data protection.</p> <p>JE noted the survey has generated some very interesting data percentage wise. When results are showing as 25-30% of responses accumulated between disagree, don't know, etc. This is something to really take notice off. JE said when comparing these percentages to pre-inspection questionnaires on Education Scotland's website they do not present a good comparison. RC explained the school do not underestimate the challenges ahead. The results provide some very valuable data for the development of the School Improvement Plan. Survey results and high level messages will be shared with the wider parent forum in the coming weeks. It will be interesting to see how the parental results correlate to the results from the pupil and staff surveys.</p>	
7	<p><u>Proposed School and Parent Council Information Event (Mrs Scollay)</u></p> <p>AMS explained to parent members that they are always keen to get parents into the school, not just for parents evening. The school previously held a Family Learning Event with different activities for parents and pupils to do. AMS would still like to arrange a similar event after Summer but due to the current themes coming through they feel it would be more appropriate to hold an information event for parents and carers.</p> <p>Recent feedback from parents and carers have highlighted a desire to learn more about vaping and the effects on children and young people, anti-social behaviour and mental health. Parents and carers have all expressed an interest in learning more about how to help their children with literacy and numeracy. AMS suggested running an event in conjunction with the Parent Council to provide more information to parents and carers. It was suggested to set a day around May/June time and to include the new S1 intake parents and carers as well. AMS and FN will arrange a small sub-group to take this forward. If any parent members would like to take part, please let DR know.</p>	AMS/FN

	<p>The staff at the AHS Halls recently attending some training delivered by the Scottish Drugs Forum. Following the training, NM was contacted by Trish Dunball, one of the co-ordinators. She was very interested to hear about local authority approaches regarding vaping. NM offered to connect Trish with AMS.</p>	<b>NM</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><u>Joint Action Plan for the Parent Council and School 2023-2025</u></p> <p>FN explained that the the action plan developed by the school is very comprehensive and suggested the Parent Council could feed into this action plan and work in conjunction with the school, rather than creating a separate plan.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><u>Best practice from feeder schools regarding parental engagement</u></p> <p>Every parent has come from another Parent Council and another school. If anyone has any examples of best practice from other schools, please contact FN/CM.</p>	<b>Parent Members</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><u>Senior Phase Beanfeast</u></p> <p>A parent raised concerns around the timing of the senior beanfeast and accessibility for the pupils from the isles. The beanfeast was moved from a Thursday evening to a Friday evening meaning that there is no longer accommodation available for the pupils from the isles and they are now required to travel home to the isles after the event.</p> <p>RC explained there had been a lot of discussion around the timing and day of the beanfeast. The timings were changed to an earlier finish last year to enable children returning to the isles to catch ferries. RC has had conversations with Mr Redman around changing the day of the beanfeast back to a Friday but this is problematic for the school and also puts the hostel in a difficult position when pupils want to attend after parties. The suggestion is to continue with the revised times but RC will take the request back to the School Management Team for further discussion.</p> <p>NM explained they opened the halls for pupils after school to get ready for the beanfeast and this worked really well.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to speak to Ferry Services and ask if changes can be made to the Unst ferry timetable on the evening of the beanfeast to accommodate the pupils from the isles and to ensure all pupils have the same opportunities.</p>	<b>RC</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>Transition</u></p> <p>FN asked if there was anything the Parent Council could do to support transition for the new S1 and S5 intake. Parent Council details can be shared with all new parents and carers. Parent Members will be happy to answer any questions from parents and carers. There was a suggestion to have Parent Council members attend the P7 into S1 evening.</p>	

	<p>NM informed parents that they have completed overnight stays for pupils from Baltasound and Mid Yell so far. Nick and Mr Redman have visited Whalsay but they have not been for their overnight stay yet. Pupils and families have also been invited for individual visits to the hostel. NM would welcome any suggestions from parents on transition processes. FN suggested organising teas/coffees by the Parent Council for the first visit to the hostel.</p>	
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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC**

APPROVED