

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held at Hamnavoe Primary School on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 1800 hours.

Present: Kay Anderson (Chair)
Denise Duncan (Vice Chair)
Kate Anderson (Parent)
Samantha Gibney (Parent)
Ken Naquin (Parent)
Jennifer Nicolson (Parent)

In Attendance: Suzanne Inkster (Clerk)
Helen Robertson (Head Teacher)

Notice of Meeting

Kay welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since COVID began.

Apologies

No apologies.

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed by Ken, seconded by Denise.

Matters Arising

- The issue with the Essy kert is now sorted.
- In relation to the parking issue around the school, surveyors have been around the school today.
- Netball goals – a plate is getting made by ocean kinetics for the goals to be connected to.
- School photographs will be sent out tomorrow.
- All clubs are up and running.
- Guest speakers from Burra Bears and Ninian have been in school.

Defibrillator

Helen informed the group that the feedback from parental consultation on the defibrillator was a strong "Yes" for having one placed in the school. The parent council discussed the practicalities of having a defibrillator in school in terms of purchase, future maintenance and training. Sam stated that Jim McLeod from her work might be able to help with training. Kate believes one at the hall is enough and it is unnecessary for the school to take this on. Kay suggested the school have a life-saving practice run through using the hall defibrillator, to give an idea of how it could work in the event of an emergency situation. Sam will write to Helen Budge to see if the authority would support a defibrillator at the school. Helen stated that all staff are paediatric first aid trained, and the school would be happy to have a defibrillator on site if the authority agrees to support and fund this and a parent group was set up to support it.

Outdoor Play Equipment and Activities

The pupil council have requested the slide be installed in the school grounds. This slide will be fixed into the ground on a slope. A contractor is coming to do the digging out, chips etc.

Mural

This is complete, looking great and Anderson & Cluness are providing a quote to weather proof it.

Covid Questions

Helen says there are still staff and pupils off with COVID. The school continues to cover absence internally. Under the new COVID guidelines if you are well enough to come to school, then you can.

Funds

Helen informed the group that the school funds are healthy.

Parent Appointments Feedback

Recently 2 classrooms have had face-to-face visits for parents evening. Kay and Suzanne both said how lovely it was to be able to come into school to see the bairns work. Teachers were also pleased with the face-to-face meet. The appointment

times were organised by parents choosing an hour that suited them, and then the school would allocate a time within this hour. Everyone felt this worked well and also liked the appointment timer used to help keep to schedule.

The online parents evenings was discussed and it was felt that these video appointments worked really well when it was not possible to come in. Sam thought the 7 minute appointment timings helped to keep it running smoothly. Kay said that they had been asked before the meeting for any questions they might have, which ensured the time during the meeting was well spent. Jennifer liked being able to choose appointment slots, as she felt it helped work around other commitments. Kate found the parent booking appointments system complicated and would have preferred a phone call. Kay and Sam both had buffering issues during their appointments.

Helen said that the next parents appointments will be in November and will hopefully be face to face.

Parent Engagement Activities

Kay stated that parent engagement is low at the moment. Hamnavoe Primary School has always had a high level of parental engagement, and this remains a priority for this parent council. Kay felt this is probably an after affect of COVID and general weariness of everything being computerised. Helen said only 7 people wanted to participate in a virtual parental engagement night, which is not enough to make it worthwhile.

Carole Smith is still keen to do some type of engagement event, and it will not necessarily have to be a virtual event now.

Kate suggested getting in touch with the 'Mind your Head' group as they have a Children & Young Persons Wellbeing practitioner. Kate informed that they do a lot for young peoples mental health and it is not just for high school age pupils.

Helen will make contact with Carol and Anoushka Civico to discuss dates.

Kay spoke about taking parental engagement into school events such as sports day and beach day, and thought there may be more interest now things are face to face. Helen suggested small steps with this and that perhaps the parent council could organise a table of teas/coffees at sports day. The event could possibly include a parents race.

Helen said that P7s are going to have an enterprise sale with their parents soon. Other suggestions for events could include a 'Grow your own vegetables' event as there was quite a bit of interest in the sustainable growing project.

Helen suggested parent engagement events could be done on the same night but in different rooms to help keep numbers down. Possibly looking at the start of June for this.

Feedback on Parental Consultation Questionnaire

Helen informed that from the recent consultation on an early finish, the result was a definite 'No'. This is most likely due to difficulties organising childcare for working parents. Helen said that the school often receives pupils from 8.30am in the morning. This helps support working parents, and it also gives the bairns a soft start to the day. Pupil behaviour at this time is always good.

Parent views on Positive Behaviour policy and School Values

Helen said recently they have held an assembly to re-visit the School Values and Positive Behaviour Policy. This assembly was well received by everyone and included songs and sketches. The school values & golden time procedures have been shared with parents via letter and email.

Helen sends an 'on the day' email to parents if their child loses golden time. This will keep parents informed and allow them to address behaviour issues with their child. Kay says there is a higher volume of this post-covid, however it has been a difficult time for bairns. Kay believes improving parental engagement will help strengthen positive behaviour. Helen will add read receipts to emails sent to highlight any parents who may have missed the email. Ken thanked Helen for all the communication sent to parents, finding it very helpful.

Open Day

There will be no open day before the summer holidays, however a provisional date has been set for 3rd September 11-1pm. This will include events and food (possible BBQ). The gym hall is risked assessed for 100 people and our numbers are over that, so there may need to be a combination of inside and outside events. The first communication letter sent home in the new school year will have more details on this.

Parent Comments

No comments received.

AOCB

Nothing further discussed.

Date of next meeting

The AGM will be held on 24th August 2022 at 6pm. The parent council meeting will follow this at 6.20pm.