

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held at Hamnavoe Primary School on Tuesday 23 August 2022 at 1830 hours.

Present: Kay Anderson (Chair)
Kate Anderson (Parent)
Gillian Gifford (Parent)
Ken Naquin (Parent)
Jennifer Nicolson (Parent)

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

Notice of Meeting

Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting of the new school year.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Denise Duncan and Samantha Gibney.

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting 10 May 2022 were approved. Proposed by Jennifer, seconded by Kay.

Matters Arising

- Defibrillator - Helen read out the defibrillator information sent in from Sam. If the school were to have its own defibrillator it would need to be an automatic one. Someone would have to be trained in its upkeep and maintenance, and someone would need to be responsible for the self testing. Following discussion it was felt that it would take quite a lot of work to have a defibrillator at the school, over and above the expense of purchase and running costs.

The Parent Council voted to no longer pursue this matter, but wished to thank Sam for all her efforts gathering information on the defibrillator.

- Outdoor Play Equipment & Activities - Helen told the parent council that this is ongoing and they are still waiting for the chute to be installed. Helen will chase this up. The fixing of other school items has been done over the summer holidays.

Parent Engagement Calendar

Events planned for parental engagement are:

Garden Night 5th September
Family fun night on 16th September
Parents appointments in November
Christmas concert & carols in December
Fire festival in January
Family engagement night in February
Coffee morning in May
Sports day & leavers assembly in June

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night is planned for Friday 16 September.
Classes will bring either savoury or sweet dishes.
School staff will organise drinks.
Pupils will decide on a theme for family fun night at assembly.
Teachers will organise the games.
Kay/Suzanne will organise the promotional flyer.
Helen will speak to some musicians to see if they are available.

Grounds

Helen said the grounds around the school are in need of attention eg fences are needing fixed. There is a shared janitor to support the smaller school and our school will be getting some hours for general jobs.

Kevin Pask has a monthly meeting with Helen to discuss the maintenance program for the school. All jobs requested in the summer got done. P7 has got a new carpet. All classrooms will be painted.

It was suggested to hold a Gardening night in the Week of 5th September. This will be after school and on the first fine opportunity that week. Helen will send out an email to parents/carers.

Homework Policy

Helen said that the staff are keen to have a more concise approach to homework. The return from parents on the past homework consultation was low. Discussion

was held around this and it was decided to try another homework consultation, this time with some homework options listed for parents.

Parent feedback on last year

Kay said as discussed beforehand in our AGM, parents were thankful to the school staff for their efforts during the challenges of COVID, and that we are looking forward to a more normal school year with more opportunities for parental engagement.

School Attainment

Helen discussed the School Improvement Plan, which is in the process of being completed. In the SIP there is an evaluation on how the school performed last year. Information is gathered from all stakeholders involved, and this helps to form the priorities for next years SIP. Helen said that the school is anticipating a visit from the Quality Improvement Team in March 2023.

Helen showed the parent council the School Improvement Plan and discussed the priorities for this school year. In addition to Literacy and Numeracy, there will be a big focus on Health and Wellbeing and Childrens Rights. Final priority is to improve Folders of Achievement for each child. These folders contain evidence of progression through the CFE levels.

AOCB

Kate raised uncertainty for some around the loss of golden time. Helen said this was covered with pupils in assembly and information had gone home to parent/carers. The school is hoping to rewrite its positive behaviour policy, however it is a pathway which will involve further training for staff, parental consultation and work done on Childrens rights first.

Helen informed the parent council that Class Dojo is no longer in use as it does not meet the necessary security requirements. However our local authority is looking at a new app called 'Expressions' although it has not been trialled yet. All school communication is now done through the school email. There will be a weekly blog every Friday with school news eg star pupil etc.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 1800 hours.