

Mid Yell Junior High School Parent Council AGM 23 September 2025

Present – T. Fraser (Chair), M Coutts, J Thomson (vice-chair), V Johnson, J Kelman, J Lyth (clerk), L Cunningham, A Meudell, M Rosie, K Bruce, B Jamieson, T Coutts.

1. Apologies – M Lawson, L Tulloch, K Brown
2. Appoint new members –
 - M Coutts is stepping down as teacher representative and B Jamieson is stepping in.
 - New members added: the following parents will now be members of the parent council: M Coutts, E Sinclair, M Rosie, T Coutts, K Bruce, S Goodlad.
 - Some parents were removed from the list due to no children at the school and no request to stay on as a community member.
3. Appoint Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Jill Thomson nominated Tammie Fraser as Chairperson, Vicky Johnson seconded. Tammie Fraser nominated Jill Thomson as Vice-chair, Vicky Johnson seconded.
4. Minutes from the last AGM – were distributed before the meeting as a reminder, these were approved by J Thomson & T Fraser.

5. Head Teachers Report

Staffing

- Ms Jude Kelman has agreed to take on a new contract as our Home Economics instructor for another year.
- Mrs Brodie Jamieson has taken up her post as our upper primary teacher
- Ms Mary Rosie has started in her post as Early Years practitioner on a Friday
- Karolina Matlinska has resigned from her post as Learning Support Assistant – these hours are being filled by Jenna Smith and Laura Turner at present.
- We had a temporary learning support worker post which was advertised – we had a good response to this post and a preferred candidate has been selected - In the meantime Ms Natalie Jamieson and Ms Honor Smith are covering this post

Budgets

- Our budget allocation for 25/26 is £2,030 for Primary, £3,250 for secondary, and £1,000 for all school costs – total £6280 Primary & Secondary
- Nursery Budgets – Learning materials - £925, Healthy Snack - £1,382, Top-up Snack - £622 ; Total - £2929
- PEF funding - £16,181
- We used the £5,000 grant we got from North Yell Development Council to fence in our playground area around the hill at the back of the leisure centre.
- We were given a grant of £500 from Tesco – this will be used to support our free fruit snack and breakfast clubs
- Last years school budget ended up being £800 over spent, the PEF budget was £2,500 underspent which can carry over to this year and the nursery budget was underspent in certain ring fenced areas – healthy snack and top up snack .

School Improvement Plan

Our priorities for this years improvement plan are:-

- Learning Environment, Experiences and Interactions – cluster shared priority
- Effective Feedback
- Primary literacy – phonics, writing, reading

P6/7 Primary School Trip

- Loch Insh – June – very successful – lots of positive feedback
- Successful in not costing families anything thanks to the very generous sponsorship of several companies/agencies
- Successful funding applications to Cooke, North Yell Development Council, Community Council, Shetland benefit fund and each schools fundraising.
- Booked to go again in the summer of 2027 – dates to be confirmed

SQA

- Exams results were once again pretty positive and on the whole in line with our expectations.
- National 5's A-C 85.1% for our school ; Scottish average is 78.4%
- Staff have been asked to consider what improvements/changes could be made to try and improve results further
- New invigilation team worked very well

Building Maintenance

- New entrance system is being installed – still waiting – phase 1 has been completed and they now have a better idea of how this works and have our external doors fixed.
- The front door and the door into nursery still need to be secured – despite several attempts to get them to complete this as it was a condition of our nursery inspection last year –The parent council decided that it would be good to send a letter to the SIC to highlight concerns around this.
- Issue with grass cutting – SIC supplied someone to cut our grass over the summer.... This was very much appreciated
- De-Junked several areas – We are now on our 3rd skip – this is allowing us to make better use of the spaces we have
- Looking into replacing the nursery and primary sheds in the playground... plan to replace these with full sized more appropriate sheds that would also help provide some sheltered spaces and make things much easier for staff.

School meals

- Still some frustrations around this which we are continually trying to improve
- Still too many families not booking meals.... Leading to some pupils not getting their chosen meal at the end of service – letter been sent out to all parents.... Might need to look into this and come up with a different approach.

Other Items

- First Ministers visit – Aug 2025
- Lots of successful entries to the Yell show
- New Positive relationships policy to be shared this term
- Coffee afternoons – Wednesday 8th October in Upper Primary
- S1 team building trip this term – staying overnight in Lerwick – various activities

6. Chairperson's report.

The last year has been busy with lots happening, in and out of the school. The Parent Council appreciate all that happens in school, and we are very thankful to all the staff and pupils for continuing to make Mid Yell JHS a high achieving, vibrant school with a welcoming atmosphere.

There have been a few fundraising initiatives this year with a Power ball, Bottle stall and Christmas hampers. With a good amount of money raised the PC continues to support the school with providing fruit to all the children and have started helping with the Breakfast Club. The supper night and breakfast rolls at the plant sale were also a big success taking

the Loch Insh trip money over the total needed. A huge thank you must go to all the parents, and Julia, who helped organise any of these as well as those who helped at them. The continued support of families and the community not only helps us as a committee but the school, and we look forward to future events that we can all get involved with. Thank you.

7. **Treasurers Report**

Last financial year we began with £4,382.26 in the bank at 1.4.24 and £61.03 in the fruit cash tin. We closed the year at 31.03.25 with £4,863.47 in the bank and £21.80 in the cash tin. The cost of fruit for the school academic year from Aug 24 – Jul 25 was £961.01 (about £80 higher than the previous year). Mark managed to find some other funding which helped towards the fruit. We did the Powerball at the Shopping night in December 24 and the proceeds of £1440 went towards the Loch Insh trip.

We are thinking to do another Powerball in time for this Christmas, if members agree.

The current financial position is:

Bank balance £4,635.60 of which £1,986.82 is ring fenced for the fighting fund, £1,497.93 for fruit/breakfast, leaving a general fund of £1,150.85 and a further £21.80 in the fruit cash tin.

8. **Other Items**

- Lottery license – has been renewed as this is needed for the Powerball
- There is now some other funding in place for breakfast club and fruit so members agreed to move some of the parent council funds into the school fund account. The school fund is used to buy many items that cannot come out of the school budget – like new chairs for the S1 area, graduation and school dance decorations plus many other items. The school will show some of the items bought on the Facebook page.
- Shopping Night 27 November – members discussed whether to do another powerball to be drawn on shopping night and thought this would be a good idea. Also do another hamper raffle on the night.
- Could we put the minutes of the Parent Council meeting onto the Facebook page? – the minutes are already emailed out to all parents.
- Occasional holiday – proposed Monday 25th May 2026, as we are already off on Friday 22 May this would make a nice long weekend, members discussed and agreed.
- North bus – a parent has contacted Tammie with concerns about the North bus lack of seat belts and reliability of both the bus and the drivers.
- Polytunnel rota for next summer – we need to sort out a rota for the summer holidays for folk to look after the poly tunnel, this was left till last minute this year with not many folk on the rota.
- Primary slide – the school hopes to get this installed next spring.

9. **A.O.C.B** –

Date of next meeting: TBC