

**Minutes of the Scalloway School Parent Council
Held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 6.30pm
In the Scalloway Primary School**

Present

Kenny Pottinger	Chairperson
Diana Tulloch	Vice Chair
Beverley Lamming	Parent Member
Wendy Leith	Parent Member
Cynthia Poleson	Parent Member
Carly Cheyney	Parent Member
Caroline Shewan	Parent Member
Seth Travins	Parent Member

In Attendance

Morag Fox	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk/Treasurer
Jaclyn Ross	Staff Representative
Davie Sandison	Councillor
Ian Scott	Councillor

1. Notice of Meeting

The notice of the meeting was held as read.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Veronique Coyne, Stacie Ferguson, Carrie McDonald, Margaret Anderson, Nadia Mackenzie and Cllr Catherine Hughson.

3. Approval of minutes – Tuesday 15th November 2022

Following an amendment to the minutes of Wednesday 25th May 2022, these were approved by Diana Tulloch and seconded by Kenny Pottinger.

4. Matter's Arising

Indoor/Outdoor Area

Neil Clubb from Assets was back at the school last week. Morag is trying to push forward with reclaiming this space. A significant amount of the money which has been set aside for this project was coming from Pupil Equity Funding which must be spent by March. Once complete, Morag is planning for some numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing items to be a part of this space.

Parents Evening

All parents' evenings have been held.

Breakfast Club

The breakfast club is up and running 2 mornings a week, with P1-3 on a Tuesday morning and P4-7 on a Thursday morning.

School Trip

School trips for P4/5 and P6/7 are being planned locally. However, the P6/7 trip will include an overnight stay.

Clerical Review

Morag has had sight of a draft document and will have further discussions with Brenda Leask, Executive Manager – Schools on this. The review will include janitorial support.

Letter to Director of Children's Services

No further ahead with this at present. Morag has been informed that Cheryl Mouat's principal teacher contract can be extended for another year.

Netball/Football

The competitions for netball and football are up and running. An outdoor netball net is on order.

Active Schools

Eoin Leask has a table tennis club up and running. A student from Robert Gordon University student has been in the school for a few weeks doing activities with the P4/5 class.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards was a good fundraiser for the school. Morag is remembering about the potential for a birthday card fundraiser next term.

Homework Policy

The Homework Policy has recently been shared with all parents along with a homework grid based on time and money. The homework grid is aimed to try and increase parental engagement.

Teacher Strikes

There are 2 industrial strike action days planned for next week. For information, Morag informed parents that The Association for Head Teachers and Deputies Scotland has accepted the latest pay offer so members of that union only may not be striking next week.

Education Reform Consultation

Cllr Sandison noted there was a very big response to the consultation.

Quality Assurance Visit

The Quality Assurance visit at the end of November was very positive. Both James Johnston, Quality Improvement Officer and Ann-Marie Flaws, ELC Education Support Officer were really pleased with the structure and progress that has been put in place over the last year.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

There is still a few absences due to ill health but nothing in comparison to this time last year.

- Art Teacher – Hannah Rose is covering this vacancy until the end of term 4.
- ELC Practitioner – Claire Towes has been appointed to this post and will start permanently in April. Claire has been covering the vacancy on supply.
- Class Teacher – 3 day teacher post covering a day in P4, P5 and P7. Meg Laurenson is the preferred candidate for P5 and Kiara Barradas is the preferred candidate for P4 and P7.
- Learning Support Worker x2 (24 hours) – currently being shortlisted.
- ASN Teacher (2 days) – Meg Laurenson is currently covering this vacancy but recruitment for permanent cover will begin shortly.

The ASN audit information is due to be submitted to the Support for Learning Inclusion Team in March. Morag noted based on the pupils moving on from P7 and the new pupils

due to come into P1, she would suspect the level of support to be the same as it currently is.

6. School Improvement Plan

Literacy

Four teachers have attended a Talk for Writing course and are implementing the storytelling Talk for Writing scheme into their classes. Two class teachers will embark on cohort 2 of the National Writing Improvement course. The feedback back from colleagues in other schools who attended cohort 1 has been really positive. The school are planning to embed these new schemes and work on progressing this going forward into 2023/24.

Parental Engagement

The feedback from parents is that engagement and communication has improved over the last year. The communication channels and updates to parents is really important. Morag and Joyce are working on setting up a new school blog. Morag is hoping to launch this in the new term. The new school blog will allow teachers to post updates on what pupils have been doing in class.

Vision, Values and Aims

The school are currently reviewing the Vision, Values and Aims. They are quite content with the values – Safe, Kind and Respect but would like to revamp the Aims and Vision for the school. These will be reviewed with staff and pupils and then taken home for parental comment. Pupils have also been asked to design a new school logo. Morag hopes the launch of the new Vision, Values, Aims and new logo can be intertwined with the launch of the new blog.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

The school have looked at all the STEM topics and reviewed how these are delivered. New resourced have been purchased.

Recovery

All pupils are currently doing an 8 week block on mindfulness. Some pupils are doing Explorer's and others are doing Adventurers, depending on what class they are in. This focuses on being self-aware, and understanding themselves and people around them.

7. Parent Council Items

Treasurer's Report

The available balance in the bank account is £631.74. The link to the easy fundraising page is: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/scallowayschool>.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. AOCB

Maximum Class Size Review

There is going to be a review of class sizes across the school estate. No specifics have been discussed for Scalloway as yet. The current maximum class sizes are 25 pupils for P1/2, 30 pupils in P3 and 33 pupils in P4-7.

ELC Registration Week

Registration week for ELC pupils was held in the beginning of February. Morag noted the registration numbers are low for Scalloway.

School Roll

The projected school roll for 2023/24 is looking to remain as 145. There are 32 new housing units due to be handed over to Hjalmland Housing Association in June. Morag is in conversations with central staff to plan ahead for possible increases over the next few years.

Transition

Transition for ELC into P1 has started. Pupils have been to visit classroom and have met their new P1 teacher, Stacy Fullerton. Comprehensive transition for the P7 pupils moving onto the AHS is underway with Louise Tait leading on this. Pupil support/additional support information is being handed over to AHS. There is an Active Schools activity morning planned for March with the cluster schools in the games hall. There will be a whole class visit on a Friday afternoon for pupils to have a tour of the school and an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Small groups may have an enhanced visits and the opportunity to attend a summer school during the summer holidays. There will be 2 timetabled days at the end of June.

Childsmile

Tooth brushing with Childsmile in P1/2 will be starting up again. P6 pupils are going to help the younger pupils with this.

Learning Walk

The Learning Walk has been scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday 23rd March. Families are welcome to come along between 1.30pm – 3.30pm. Pupils will be taking family members on a tour around the school, to see their classroom and their class work. Wendy and Cynthia agreed to arrange some teas/coffees on the afternoon.

ACTION: Wendy/Cynthia

Comic Relief

Morag asked for parents thought on Comic Relief in the current cost of living crisis. The school are thinking to have a dressing up day and possibly with red noses available. All parents happy with this.

P7 Leaver Pupils

Beverly asked if there were any plans for a P7 leaving party and wondered if parents could organise a dance in the hall. Mrs Tait is organising P7 leaver hoodies.

Drumming Instruction

Morag has emailed Children's Services regarding drumming instruction at Scalloway.

Vandalism

Cllr Sandison asked for an update on the recent vandalism and disruption around the school. The wooden gate that leads into castle room play area has been kicked in. It has been fixed a few times but now requires a bigger repair job. The adventure area was vandalised this morning. Hame fae Hame are having similar issues and are looking to apply for data permission to set up security cameras. Morag will mention vandalism to pupils in assembly to raise awareness.

ACTION: Morag

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 6.30pm.