

**Minutes of the Scalloway School Parent Council
Held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 6.30pm
In the Scalloway Primary School**

Present

Kenny Pottinger	Chairperson
Diana Tulloch	Vice Chair
Veronique Coyne	Parent Member
Beverley Lamming	Parent Member
Wendy Leith	Parent Member
Cynthia Poleson	Parent Member
Carly Cheyney	Parent Member
Caroline Shewan	Parent Member
Margaret Anderson	Parent Member
Nadia Mackenzie	Parent Member
Seth Travins	Parent Member
Catherine Bradley	Parent Member
Jamie Fullerton	Parent Member
Catherine Bradley	Parent Member

In Attendance

Morag Fox	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk/Treasurer
Jaclyn Ross	Staff Representative
Catherine Hughson	Councillor
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 Jacqueline Irvine and Cllr Moraig Lyall.

3. Approval of minutes – Wednesday 25th May 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

Cheryl Mouat has created 4 indoor playtime boxes with some donated toys and games, as well as some purchased items. A power point on the outdoor panels has been shared with teaching staff to consult with pupils. Morag has chased both Kevin Pask and Neil Clubb for their pieces of work on resurfacing the multicourt and converting the store room into an indoor/outdoor space.

Parents Evening

Two parents evenings/afternoons have booked for 24th and 29th November. Appointments will be booked through Parents Booking.

Christmas Concert

Christmas concert tickets will be free this year as the school are aware of the cost of living pressures for families.

School Improvement Plan & Standards and Quality Report

Morag noted they are working hard through the School Improvement Plan and making some progress. Part of the PEF has been allocated to pay for a Learning Support Worker for 12 hours per week to target some small groups of pupils with numeracy and literacy.

COVID

Absences have continued to settle over the last few months.

School Photos

School photos were taken yesterday by Ben Mullay. A link and password will be shared with parents shortly to view and place orders online.

Tuck Shop

Cheryl Mouat is leading a piece of work to restart the breakfast club. The hope is to offer breakfast 2 mornings a week, one for P1-3 and one for P4-7.

School Trip

Morag has not received any information back from RJ Jamieson therefore there will be no off islands school trip this school year. The school are hoping arrange an overnight stay at the Christian Youth Camp and organise some activities days for some of the older pupils. Beverley asked if the residential could be more than one night. Morag explained that it is difficult to find staff willing to accompany the children. They are still at the very early stages of planning and will try their best to make it a memorable experience for the pupils.

Clerical Review

There has been no update on the clerical review.

Letter to Director of Children's Services

The parent members agreed at the meeting of 14th September 2023 to write a letter to the Helen Budge, Director of Children's Services regarding requests for an ASN budget for the school, additional ASN staff, additional clerical hours and a Depute Head Teacher post for the school – requesting fairness and equity across the school estate and raising question around why the provision has fallen short at Scalloway Primary School. Morag noted she has not yet provided the parent members with a list of headings to be included in the letter.

ACTION: Morag/Parent Members

Netball/Football

The netball club is up and running and some fixtures have been received today for the county wide competition. The football club started today and is being run by 2 parent volunteers, James Hunter and Bryan Garrick.

Active Schools

Eoin Leask, Active Schools is starting a badminton club for P4/5 next week in the games hall.

Christmas Cards

All Christmas card orders have been collated. The birthday card idea will be put forward to the new art teacher when appointed.

YMI

Stevie Hook is back in the school providing guitar lessons. Joy Duncan has been booked to provide African Drumming session for all classes in term 3 and 4.

Homework

The homework policy was last updated in 2014. Morag confirmed they will carry out some consultation with parents at parents evening and put forward an action plan to update the policy.

ACTION: Morag

Fish & Chip Night

The Fish and Chip night was a huge success and raised over £2,600 for the school.

5. Head Teacher's Report

Staffing

HR are gradually trying their best to work through the back log of recruitment.

- Support Worker (temporary) – Paige Fleming has been appointed.
- Art Teacher (temporary) – Hannah Rose is covering this post until January.
- Learning Support Worker 30hpw (permanent) – Nadia Mackenzie has been appointed.
- Learning Support Worker 30phw (temporary) – Dionne Pottinger has been appointed.

Morag explained they have temporarily traded one day of ASN teacher and some supervisory hours at lunch time for an 18hpw Learning Support Worker post for the remainder of the school year. Meg Laurenson has been brought back into the school for 2 days per week in ELC and P1 and this has been extended to the end of the school year.

Current Vacancies

- Practitioner (2 days).
- Teacher of Primary (3 days – established).

Ona Mitchell and Jenna Goudie are both starting in Learning Support Worker post over the next few weeks.

Parents Evening & Vision, Values and Aims

As part of the School Improvement Plan, Morag is looking to revamp the Vision, Values and Aims for the school. There will be a short parent consultation during parents evening to ask parents 'What makes Scalloway and our school unique?' Morag visited Whiteness Primary School to see how they promote their vision, values and aims in the school. During the visit they looked at the school blog which has prompted the school to look at setting up a new Glow Blog website for the school. This will provide more up to date information to parents.

The parent members will arrange teas, coffees and homebakes for parents evening. The school will provide the tea, coffee and milk.

ACTION: Parent Members

Teacher Strikes

There is a proposed teacher strike on Thursday 24th November. Children's Services have advised schools to wait for direction before notifying parents.

Education Reform Consultation

Morag highlighted the current national discussion on Education Reform. There is a consultation ongoing at the moment, with a closing date of Monday 5th December. The consultation is around refreshing the education visions nationwide, priorities and setting targets based around learning, equity, wellbeing and children's rights. A new Education Reform Bill will be introduced in 2023 once the consultation has been completed. There

are a couple of things already being highlighted, one being interdisciplinary skills – looking at topics in school and modernising these. Another item being highlighted is UNCRC (The UN Convention on the Rights of Children) Article 29 which is soon to be law in Scotland. This includes topics around the child's right to be heard, and have their voice on the table, to have an influence and an impact on how they are learning. As a school, they try to factor this into the classroom practice and ask pupils for their input on what they want to learn on a particular topic, to adapt the learning to motivate the pupils.

Quality Assurance Visit

James Johnston, Quality Improvement Officer and Ann-Marie Flaws, Education Support Officer (ELC) will be in the school on Wednesday 30th November for a Quality Assurance visit. They will spend time in the classes and feedback to Morag and Cheryl at the end of the day.

6. Parent Council Items

Treasurer's Report

The available balance in the bank account is £466.21. The link to the easy fundraising page is: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/scallowayschool>.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. AOCB

Newsletter

The parent members discussed sending a newsletter each term.

Communication

Caroline asked if they could ensure all communication is being shared to ELC parents as some is being missed. Morag will check this.

ACTION: Morag

Scalloway Youth Centre

Sam Wiggins have been in contact to ask if the school would be willing to sell raffle tickets for the Youth Centre. Parent members did not feel comfortable with this due to the rising cost of living.

Free School Meals

Cllr Scott advised that the topic extending universal free school meals to all pupils is on the agenda for the Council meeting on Wednesday. The Scottish Government have a commitment to roll out universal free school meals to P6 and P7 during the current parliamentary term. This was expected to be delivered by August 2022 but has been postponed.

Cllr Sandison explained the Children and Families Committee have asked Children's Services to further explore options around increasing the clothing grant award by 50% and aligning the eligibility criteria for free school meals to the same as the clothing grant. Aligning the criteria would increase the number of children eligible for free school meals. A further report will be presented in December.

St Ringans Hub

A new hub has been set up at St Ringans offering support for cost of living pressures. The hub is open to anyone and contains clothing for babies, children and teenagers, as well as items such as food, hot water bottles, blankets and duvets. Cllr Sandison informed parent

members that they are already looking to roll this service out to 3 other areas beyond Lerwick. One of these will be Scalloway and a fridge/larder arrangement will be set up in the foyer area of Hame fae Hame which will be stocked with dry goods, fresh goods, some clothing and nappies. It will be open during day time hours.

School Meals

Parent members raised issues around school meals and pupils not getting the meal they have selected. The canteen have been struggling with staff absence and have had issues with a broken freezer, meaning they have had to change the menu at the last minute. Morag advised if parents are not satisfied, they should contact the Catering and Cleaning Department.

Technology

A parent raised concerns with the use of technology in the classroom. Morag assured parents that any use of technology is for educational resources but if any parent is not satisfied with this, they should contact her directly through the school.

School Uniform

Parent members discussed promoting the school uniform in the parent council newsletter.

Playground Supervision

A parent asked if there is always a supervisor in playground to intervene with pupils falling out during break times. Morag confirmed there will always be supervisors in the playground during break times but there has been a few changes in staff recently. There was a suggestion to have a rota for activities in the playground and not have football every day.

Play Leaders

Active Schools are running a 6 week Play Leaders programme for P6. These pupils have the option volunteer in the P1/2 play area at break times.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 6.30pm.