



## STORNOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Stornoway Primary School

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7PM**

<b>Parent's Present:</b>	<b>In Attendance:</b>
Mairi Macmillan (Chair)	Peigi Maclean (Head of School)
Rhona Gallagher	Karina Mackay (Depute Head Teacher Early Years)
Sarah Maclean	Charlie Nicolson
Iain Bain	Cllr. Rae Mackenzie
Gillian Mackenzie	Catherine Hacker
	<b>Apologies:</b>
	Caroline Maciver
	Rona Macdonald
	Karen Macdonald
	Cllr Angus MacCormack
	Cllr. Gordon Murray
	Cllr George Murray
	Cllr Frances Murray
	Cllr Iain Macaulay
	Cllr Duncan Macinnes

	ACTION	LEAD	WHEN
<b>1</b>	Donald Macleod & School Management Team have looked at developing the grounds where the condemned shelters are into a raised bed/ polycrub/ benches area. A request for this work has been submitted to CnES w/b 13.June.	CnES	As soon as possible
<b>2</b>	School Newsletter idea in development. (Suggestion to include an outline of what a 'School Vision 2025' may look like.)	PC Lynne Maciver previous offer of support	Carried Forward to Session 22/23
<b>3</b>	'Friends of Stornoway Primary' Agreement to look at developing this idea further – with a call for interest to go into the newsletter.	PC Gordon Murray previous offer of support	Carried Forward to Session 22/23
<b>4</b>	Check that Minutes of PC meetings have been uploaded to the school website. HT to follow up with the school office to ensure this is done routinely after PC meetings.	Head Teacher/ School Office	Regularly after each PC meeting.

5	Follow Up with School Office to check that PC Contact list has been updated.	Sarah Maclean/ School Office	By date of next meeting.
6	The school canteen have agreed to support production of a Stornoway Primary School Cookbook – it was suggested that The County Hotel might sponsor the book's production.	Anji Macritchie previous offer of support	Carried forward to session 22/23
7	Development of payment link on school website – the PC will need to work closely with the school and CnES IT dept on this one so it may take time.	Mairi Macmillan / SMT	Update to future meeting.
8	Development of 'School Vision 2025' via a small steering group comprising teacher/ PC/ Pupil Council/ Ed.Dept reps (Charlie volunteered to act as PC rep). This will connect with the work the school is currently undertaking to refresh its values. A meeting will be arranged for Session 22/23 to get this started.	Charlie Nicolson	Carried forward to session 22/23
9	Work undertaken to re-engage with parent community to strengthen Parent Council engagement.	PC	Term 1: 22/23
10	Buddy Benches – PC to confirm support for the project with the Pupil Council and contact the Sty Councillors to request support from them also.	PC	Update to next meeting
11	PC to draft a note to the Stornoway Councillors and members of the E&CS Committee requesting enough budget by allocated to the Sports Facilities Project to enable adequate storage and ancillary space alongside the 4 court playing space.	PC	As soon as possible.
12	Investigate potential for an activities based apprentice linked to the school to support delivery of Vision 2025?	Rhona Gallagher	Update to next meeting.

## **1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It was noted that this was the first in-person meeting of the Parent Council in over two years and that work would need to be done in the new term to encourage parental involvement and engagement again. **(Action Point 9)**

## **2. Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minute of the previous meeting (16 March '22) was proposed by Mairi Macmillan and seconded by Charlie Nicolson as being an accurate record.

### Matters Arising

- Rhona Gallagher reported that the NHS WI funding discussed at the previous meeting was predominantly capital grants and the deadline for application had passed at the end of March. However the PC have been advised that if a future approach is made to NHS WI there is a strong likelihood some support will be available.
- HT updated that the school School Management Team now comprises:  
*Executive Head Teacher – supporting in the school premises 2 days per week (Kathleen Macleod)*  
*Head of School (Peigi Maclean)*  
*Depute Head of Nursery & Early Years - plus supporting duties (Karina Mackay)*  
*4 Principal Teachers (including the new appointment of Mairi Macleod into the role vacated by Bethany Spence)*

This is likely to be the set school SMT going forward, to be confirmed by Session 22/23.

### 3. Uniform Order Update

A recent order has been received and distributed – thanks to Karen Macdonald for co-ordinating.

The order for the new session has now been placed and should be delivered by August.

### 4. Pupil Council Funding Request

Teacher Sandra Macleod has been working closely with the Pupil Council as part of the ‘Rights Respecting Schools’ initiative.

As part of this project the Pupil Council have identified the potential for Buddy Benches – seats distributed throughout a school grounds to encourage friendship and peer support. If a pupil goes to a bench they are indicating they would like someone to talk to or play with.

The Pupil Council have written to the PC requesting support to buy 6 benches at approximately £200 each.

Charlie suggested the cost could be shared between PC and Sty Councillors and suggested forwarding the letter from Pupil Council to them to request contributions from ward funding.

The PC will write to Pupil Council confirming support and forward their request to the Councillors to investigate joint support. **(Action Point 10)**

### 5. Sub-group Updates

#### **EVENTS & FUNDRAISING**

- The school recently held a fundraising car-wash and UNICEF ‘Day for Change’ free-dress day – choosing to donate from both events to the Ukrainian Appeal and raising in total over £1,500.
- ‘Olivia’s Journey’ is due to take place this Friday and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> June, with both Teachers and Pupils walking miles to raise money for the Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity in memory of Olivia Macleod.
- No further fund-raising has been held by the PC this term but the committee are looking forward to being able to resume face-to-face communal events in the new session.

## **CURRICULUM**

- Best practice toolkits to support with raising attainment in numeracy and literacy have been developed and provided to every classroom.
- There has been a focus on mental maths skills this term and additional numeracy resources have been purchased.
- Wellbeing and developing a 'Whole School Approach to Nurture' has been priority as part of the school's pandemic recovery plan. Training has been offered to all teachers to enable the recognition of trauma and its impact on children.  
The school's value policy has been re-drafted away from an emphasis on 'good behaviour' and towards encouraging 'positive relationships' – All Behaviour is Communication.

### **Nurture Classroom**

Mrs Catherine Hacker updated the meeting on the Nurture Classroom initiative which has been developed to foster improved social skills and emotional regulation amongst children identified as potentially benefitting.

Small groups of all ages are brought together to participate in a curriculum focused on play, sensory stimulation, communal activities and personalised choices of learning.

Some of the curriculum looks on linking back to early childhood experiences which may have been missed due to family circumstances or the pandemic lockdowns.

There is a significant importance given to snack-time and bringing pupils to eat together around the classroom's 'kitchen table'

This is just one of the differences in the layout of the classroom which also has a sofa and soft furnishings to make it more homely.

Pupils using the nurture classroom also spend time in their usual class with the aim being to enable them to access mainstream learning more easily.

The nurture classroom is available to all age-groups, including nursery –

The children identified to attend sometimes just need space and quiet, some don't have support and quiet spaces at home, some have experienced long-term trauma (a one-off incident or something longer term).

The meeting welcomed Mrs Hacker's presentation of the project and praised the school for a fantastic initiative.

### **GENERAL FABRIC & FACILITIES**

The F&F Group has been focused solely on the new Sports Facilities this term, this is covered elsewhere on the agenda.

With regard to wider Fabric & Facilities developments at the school Iain Bain suggested that the sub-group is re-set in the August term, to identify new members and new priorities.

The meeting agreed Charlie's suggestion that these new priorities should link into the School Vision 2025.

## **6. School Partnership Update Report**

### **GENERAL**

- Covid restrictions have now eased completely which is great for the school.
- It has been a very busy to end of term, with many projects ongoing including the P7 Dandelion Project's potato planting.

- P5b & their class teacher undertook Diana Training to become anti-bullying ambassadors, they will spearhead the whole school anti-bullying campaign in 22/23.
  - Pupil Council led arrangements for the fundraising carwash and UNICEF Day for Change.
  - There are now Ukrainian pupils in the school and they are getting on well, the school have been working with them and their families to welcome them and support community integration.
  - The school held a variety of successful Jubilee Celebration in June.
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- There were 130+ virtual submissions of pupil poems and songs to the Local Mod as well as 2 ceilidh groups and a choir entry in the youngest category. 2 x tutors were hired with support from Comann nam Parant to support pupils learning their spoken and sung pieces. The first post-covid whole school assembly took place to showcase the various mod pieces between classes.
  - £1,500 raised through the school's 5k walk so far and funds are still coming in. Last year's money went to supporting the soft-start initiative in the school which involves play equipment for all classes and the Rise & Shine breakfast club.
  - The P7 transition programme has been underway in a more normal form for the first time since 2019. Activities including Nicolson visits have been held in partnership with Community Learning & Development. A leavers lunch, assembly & final fling are planned.
  - Repairs to the vandalism damage are scheduled over the summer break – new carpets, flooring, plant room repairs, skirtings etc...  
While this work is ongoing there will be a temporary relocation of the childcare centre and nursery classes to Bridge Centre, Laxdale School and the Scout Hall.

## **NURSERY**

- An end-of-term trip to the Ness play-park was very successful.
- P1 transition work is underway with this year feeder childcare centres out-with Stornoway Primary bringing in pupils.
- The parent session on nursery intake was very successful and attracted 30+ parents.
- Nursery inductions are also underway.
- The Childcare Centre and Nursery are working much better together since co-location and the Care Inspectorate are very approving of the joint working.

## **7. Finance Report**

£8,169 is the last known bank account balance.

From this payments have been made out on sport day ice-lollies, prizegiving trophies; and also on P7 leaver gifts of 'Love Local' gift cards, redeemable in a number of small local retailers.

A full financial update will be presented at the next meeting.

## **8. Sports Provision Project**

Iain Bain updated on the project Steering Group meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June; attended by himself and Sarah Maclean on behalf of the PC, along with the School and colleagues from the Comhairle:

- Ongoing emphasis on maximising the play-space - latest iteration of the project designs show this has been developed at the cost of adequate storage space.  
Both CnES Sports Facilities Manager Tony Wade & the PC reps expressed disappointed in the storage space spec.

It has been confirmed by the Education & Children's Services Department that 2 options are to be presented to the Comhairle:

- Proceed with a 3.5 court space and ancillary space within the set £1.8m budget
- Proceed with a 4 court space and ancillary space with an additional budget ask taking the total project cost to £1.95m

Comhairle management turned down, on budgetary grounds, a PC ask for a 3<sup>rd</sup> option to be presented to Councillors:

- Proceed with a 4 court space and additional storage space (1 more bay of the building structure, taking the project costs to £2.2m)

At a site visit on 15/6/22 with the new Comhairle Convener, Cllr. Kenny Macleod and Chair of the E&CS Committee, Cllr Paul Finnegan; an additional option was looked at taking the cost to £1.97m. This would enable a partition to be inserted in the current design, retaining 4-court playing space but re-orientating storage to improve it significantly – it will still be on the small side but is an improvement on the £1.95m version.

Intensive engagement on the project took place with the school community over Sports Days, with the outline of the new structure outlined on the school pitch, generating very positive feedback:

- People delighted something is 'finally' happening
- many asked how long project delivery would take?
- many commented on the storage and changing spaces being too tight.
- Reorientating the current plans to rotate the building 90 degrees and relocate it further along the pitch to maximise the grassed area and minimise dead space was a common theme.

The meeting agreed the project has taken shape very well and is close to being the transformational sports space the school deserves and has been long fought for.

The PC will draft a note to the Sty Councillors & Education Committee members requesting they consider funding a full extra bay on the building (£2.2m option). The note will emphasise the positivity of the project, the increased construction costs which have limited the spec and the Build it Once, Build it Right principle. **(Action Point 11)**

It was agreed that this representation must be made as a single voice from the PC.

Charlie offered a note of thanks to all parents on the sub-group and PC who have been involved in moving the project forward to this stage.

### AOCB & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Parent query re P7 leavers event in the playground on the last day of school?** The school confirmed yes this would be going ahead and that the parents should contact the P7 class teachers to arrange.

The School were commended on how well **Sports Days** were organised this year with the streaming of year groups working very well.

HoS confirmed **Swimming Galas** will resume in the 22/23 session and the school are open to spreading events such as the swimming galas and P7 trip throughout the year to avoid the Term 4 overload and develop class bonding throughout the year.

Charlie Nicolson suggested an apprenticeship linked to the school to help deliver Community Learning/ Active Schools activities. Rhona Gallagher offered to look into this. **(Action Point 12)**

The Head Teacher offered thanks to the PC for all their work to support the school in 2021/22.

The next meeting is proposed for first week in September 2022 and going forward to rotate our meeting days to maximise people's availability to attend.