



STORNOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Stornoway Primary School

Tuesday 26th April 2023, 7PM

Parent's Present:	Apologies:
Mairi Macmillan (Chair)	Rhona Gallagher
Iain Bain	Cllr. Malcolm Macdonald
Sarah Maclean	Cllr. Frances Murray
Caroline Maciver	Cllr. Angus MacCormack
Ashleigh Macaskill	Emma Macsween
Claire Hobson	Cllr. Gordon Murray
Karen Macleod	Karen Macdonald
Ruth Morrison	Anji Macritchie
Olohuntoyni Alatise	Shonnie Macritchie
Shona Shields	Jonathon Maciver
In Attendance:	
Peigi Maclean (Head of School)	Karina Mackay (Depute Head Teacher)
Charlie Nicolson	Cllr. George Murray
Cllr. Duncan Macinnes	Cllr. Rae Mackenzie

	ACTIVITY	LEAD / ACTION	WHEN
1	<p>Playground Developments</p> <p>The condemned shelters in the playground have been demolished and a building request to erect a new area of raised beds/ polycrub/ benches etc... has been approved</p> <p>It was previously mentioned that CnES could replace shelters on the school grounds once the old ones were gone – this has not been investigated but the meeting agreed it won't be necessary as they were rarely used by pupils.</p> <p>Discussion of cost of the horticulture area project, which the school themselves are paying for. The Headteacher updated on fundraising and stated the main works quote was 11K+VAT to deliver and install the polycrub and a water supply from the school building.</p> <p>The bike shelters in that area of the playground remain as was. Iain Bain highlighted that there is significant funding available for cycling infrastructure that could be investigated to develop that provision.</p>	<p>School / CnES</p> <p>The School to look into alternative quotes in a bid to reduce costs.</p> <p>Iain Bain to research sources of cycle funding.</p>	<p>Update to next meeting.</p>

2	<p>Newsletter</p> <p>The plans for a PC Newsletter have not progressed and as the school produce a regular news bulletin it was agreed to contribute PC items to that source rather than duplicate effort.</p> <p>The suggestion made at the previous meeting to develop links with Isles FM have been followed up by the school and two classes (1 EM & 1 GM) have volunteered to give regular bulletins on school activities to the station.</p>	PC / School	Fuller PC contribution to school bulletin to be underway by next meeting.
3	<p>Friends of Stornoway Primary</p> <p>It was agreed at previous meetings to look at developing this idea further by speaking with other schools that have set up similar schemes - such as Portree High School and the Nicolson, Gavin Woods was suggested as someone involved there who could be consulted.</p>	<p>Cllr. Gordon Murray had made an offer to support this project - it was agreed to see if he has capacity to take this forward.</p>	Update to next meeting
4	<p>Parent Engagement</p> <p>The school website is now up to date with minutes of all recent PC meetings.</p> <p>Discussion points for forthcoming PC meets are posted to the PC Facebook page and the PC's role & contact details are included every week on the school bulletin (next edition - highlight that PC Mins are available on the website). Also send out a Groupcall in an effort to raise awareness of and engagement with the PC.</p> <p>A basic flyer introducing the role and activities of the PC would be useful for school events – such as the Nursery to School transition day 14/6/23.</p> <p>The meeting debated the relative merits of in-person meetings vs online; online meetings can be less productive but more inclusive. It was agreed to seek parent feedback re preferences.</p>	<p>PC to forward mins on time & School Office will add to website.</p> <p>School & PC to use Groupcall & FB respectively to highlight PC mins on the website.</p> <p>PC to develop information flyer.</p> <p>PC to seek parental feedback re meeting arrangements.</p>	Regularly after each PC meeting.
5	<p>Stornoway Primary School Cookbook</p> <p>The PC have written to the Pupil Council to request their input to producing the cookbook. (The County Hotel are a potential sponsor).</p>	PC	Update to next meeting.
6	<p>Payment Link on School Website</p> <p>To develop a payment link on the school website – there will need to be liaison with the CnES IT team & it may take time to identify the right solution. Cllr. Frances Murray has advised speaking to Anne Young, Business Manager at Nicolson as she was involved with establishing their one.</p>	<p>School to contact CnES IT team & Anne Young.</p>	Update to next meeting.

7	<p>School Vision A small steering group comprising School/ PC/ Pupil Council will be formed to connect the work the school is currently doing to its values and look to forward plan in a strategic way.</p> <p>The possibility of an apprentice – to support delivery of the School Vision project – was been suggested at a previous meeting.</p>	<p>Charlie Nicolson & Claire Hobson agreed to represent the PC in this work.</p> <p>PC to set-up initial meeting & highlight the proposal to see if any other parents are interested in becoming involved.</p> <p>Rhona Gallagher - research Apprentice option.</p>	Update to next meeting.
8	<p>New Indoor Sports Facility The project is behind schedule due to the procurement matters outlined in the previous minute and a new complication relating to the insurance arrangements on site. Planning Permission has not yet been applied for.</p>	<p>CnES</p> <p>The Councillors present agreed to raise the delays at Council to try and ensure the project stays viable in the current economic climate.</p>	Update to next meeting.
9	<p>RSHP Discussion of RSHP teaching proposals is noted at Point 3. below.</p>	<p>PC to write to Ed.Dept to explore improved engagement & consultation approaches.</p> <p>School to communicate with parent community around recent RSHP debate and next steps.</p>	
11	<p>Uniform Discussion of uniform is noted at point 5. below</p>	<p>PC to include information on where to purchase school ties in future uniform comms.</p>	

		PC will re-stock the uniform cupboard – especially with larger sizes.	
12	Christmas Lights Discussion of repairs over summer / autumn – noted at AOCB.	PC to contact ACES to identify likely cost of repairing indoor and outdoor lights.	

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated it was lovely to see so many people and new faces attending. Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minute of the previous meeting (1st Feb 2023) was proposed by Mairi Macmillan and seconded by Claire Hobson as being an accurate record.

Matters arising were covered in the action points noted above and via the main agenda.

3. RSHP

Cllr. Rae Mackenzie said he would have to leave the meeting early and asked to give an update on that afternoon's Comhairle meeting on the proposed plans for teaching Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood (RSHP) topics in local schools:

- The Comhairle have agreed a pause on roll out of RSHP teaching while a further phase of consultation with parents takes place.
- No timeframe or structure for this consultation has yet been proposed.
- All who were present at the meeting agreed that it had been short and focused with no contention or debate.

Cllr. Mackenzie took the opportunity to highlight the need for the RSHP discussion to be conducted with respect, especially towards teaching and Education Department staff who are doing their best with the difficult task of trying to deliver a solution acceptable to all parties.

Parents present stated:

- Lack of meaningful consultation had given rise to frustration and resentment.
- The actual materials to be used in classrooms should have been shared prior to consultation for parents to feel that a) they could make informed comment and b) weren't being misled.
- This is a highly sensitive and emotive issue with a lot of associated material for parents to digest, there should have been more information in circulation earlier to allow people to work through it.
- Ultimately a child's participation in RSHP teaching is an individual choice for every family.
- RSHP roll-out has been under discussion for a long time and this next round of consultation will require further patience from all.
- It would be helpful if the Comhairle could indicate promptly what the structure and timeframe for the new consultation will be, otherwise there is a risk of the issue stagnating and fostering divisions across the school community.

- A pause on teaching of RSHP topics in schools while the new consultation is ongoing is concerning from the point of view that some pupils could face delays in learning even the existing approved curriculum about friendships, wellbeing, puberty etc... Whilst it is acknowledged that some of this subject matter is contentious and sensitive it is also essential and the young people shouldn't miss out on information they need.

The Headteacher confirmed that there will be no personal development lessons in schools until the new consultation is completed.

Need for the PC to remain neutral and represent all members of the school community: some parents were unhappy that the PC may have 'approved' the proposed RSHP content. It was stressed that this is not the case – comments made at the school's RSHP meeting on 19th April were that the PC had been included in the RSHP consultation process to date and the topic had been discussed at the previous PC meeting, however there had been little engagement from parents to the PC up to this point. It was acknowledged that the subject is beyond the remit or influence of the PC and better dealt with directly at Education Department level as they are responsible for school policy.

If nothing else the RSHP debate has highlighted yet again a lack of adequate consultation with parents and carers on important matters. The impression is of a top-down, decide-policy-consult-later culture which angers parents and leads to unnecessary levels of frustration and acrimony. It was agreed the PC will write to the Education Department highlighting concern at this approach and requesting the opportunity to work with all parties to find healthier, more transparent ways of information and opinion sharing in future. **ACTION 9**

The school agreed the suggestion that they put together a memo to parents and carers updating them on the latest decision by the Comhairle and the proposal for further consultation. This will be in addition to any formal communication from the Education Dept. and will aim to reunite and reassure the school community. **ACTION 10**

4. Fundraising Events 2023

Penny Wars took place across the school in the final week of Term 3 and raised an amazing £1,500 for general PC funds. P7A were the winning class with most copper pennies collected.

The School & Nursery are planning a sponsored walk in the Castle Grounds in May for school funds, all pupils will take part walking various distances depending on school stage.

It was agreed the PC wouldn't undertake any specific fund-raising in Term 4 as it is an extremely busy time in school and in consideration of cost to parents.

There won't be a school Fun Day this year however the PC are planning to host some activities in the last week of June to tie in with the existing leavers event.

A Treasure Hunt was suggested for Term 1 of 2023/24

5. Uniform Orders

The uniform order for session 23/24 has been submitted.

It would be helpful if a note on where to buy the school tie could be added to the uniform parcels / order forms. **ACTION 11**

The pre-used uniform is popular and the PC will continue to encourage donations and take up.

Note from previous meeting to ensure the uniform cupboard is re-stocked.

6. School Update

- Building request in for the new horticulture area has been approved. Each class and all age groups across the school will have their own area. Some funds are in place and further fundraising and grant applications are underway. There was discussion around costs and best options for suppliers.
- Term 3 Open Afternoon was well attended and it was lovely to see families back in the classrooms. A number of partner agencies attended in the Assembly Hall but these were not well accessed so that will be reviewed for the next event.
- HMI inspectors are looking to work with Stornoway Primary during the next phase of their National Thematic Review having identified the work around the Anti-Bullying ambassadors as an example of best practice – there will be a follow up visit to learn more in May / June in order for HMI to exemplify the case in their report.
- The school's P6 Euro Quiz team won the WI challenge and will be taking part in the national event in Edinburgh in June.
- The P7 trip to the Cairngorms Adventure Centre will take place 19-23 June. The school are finalising information to share with parents imminently.
- Standards & Quality report for this academic year has been submitted and very positive feedback received, work will now begin on next year's plan.

Nursery

- The April pupil intake have settled well taking the nursery roll to 89 with only 7 spaces currently available.
- There will be a P1 information session on 14th June, also involving the Scout Hall nursery, this was very well attended last year and a good turn-out is expected this year. The PC will aim to have information ready for distribution to parents at that event.
- There are currently 13 enrolled for GM1 and 29 for English P1 (there are 60 P7's leaving this year).
- Pre-school children are working on the Foundations of Writing programme which teaches pre-writing skills and helps with achieving a consistent approach between nursery and P1.
- The nursery have end-of-term days out planned.

7. Finance Update

£8,144 is the estimated current bank balance with no major payments to report this term.

Still working with BoS to change Treasurer details over to Emma Macsween.

AOCB & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Robert Ross has contacted the PC to say he is doing voluntary work on behalf of the Scottish Gov looking at proposals to improve educational delivery so it is more relevant to real-life experiences. Do the PC have any ideas?

It was agreed this is important, especially around STEM subjects and the PC will request a fuller brief of Robert's work and if appropriate promote to parents so they can respond directly.

Charlie Nicolson highlighted the following:

- Need to revisit the proposal for a school learning trip to Finland.
- A school Group looking at approaches to alleviate poverty has met once. Setting up a portacabin from which to operate a swap-shop has been explored and will likely cost around £5K.
There are a number of ongoing projects aimed at supporting people in difficult times and reducing cost of living - the PC agreed to continue to promote these as appropriate.
- Suggestion for the school to form a partnership with the Food Bank – perhaps as a point-of-collection for donations and maybe take the older pupils to the Food Bank itself to learn how it works and why it exists.
- Are the school planning to celebrate the Coronation? Yes, classes are working on different projects but all stages of the school are doing something to mark the event.

Caroline Maciver – commended the school's excellent Metagama play, congratulations to all involved.

Mairi Macmillan – the indoor and outdoor Christmas lights require repair, a quote for this is needed, mindful of the tight autumn window for the outdoor work to take place. PC to liaise with ACES electricians on this. **ACTION 12**

The next meetings of the group will take place on Wednesday 31st May.