

# ARDNAMURCHAN HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014

PRESENT: Louise Cameron, Andy Tilling, P Kennedy, Shirley Shaw, Elaine Jackson C Millar-Craig, Katherine MacLean, Lynn Coldwell  
J Morris

ABSENCE: Theresa Bolton, Jackie Pleming, , Lyndsay Bradley, Ian Jackson, Fay Rowantree, Helen Tait

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1. Minutes and updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amendment to minute proposed by Norma Young agreed and accepted</li> <li>Update for Ardgour Area Fund – completed</li> <li>BM absent – suggested that SA stand in as PC rep as he was other nomination is latest election. Agreed that SA was to be asked.</li> <li>Chair shared positive impact of website and thanked AHS for keeping it so live and current. Opportunity to view it at end of meeting was provided.</li> <li>Congratulations to the Commonwealth Baton Bearers, parents and pupils</li> </ul>	CMC
2. Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D of E Grants shared £3137 and £750. Balance is £6583 including parent payments. Awards for All Logo to be used in all correspondence</li> <li>£152 raised for D of E at Sunart Show</li> <li>Xmas Fayre organisation. JP unavailable this year. Volunteers?</li> <li>Paperwork for HC required before grant made available.</li> </ul>	
3. Headteacher Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Staffing</b> – updates on absent staff History supply in for MG – hopefully MG will return shortly SH will be off for the foreseeable future – SP actively seeking subject supply for Music English – 2 qualified English staff job sharing the roll. PT Faculty Post advertised for 1 year with English qualification essential. No return date for BM but permission to retain post until June even after BMs return. Physics – subject supply covering vacancy. Post being advertised 0.8 FTE (0.6 permanent, 0.2 for 1 year)</li> <li><b>Subject Updates</b> Bus Man – offered via Scholar with support from KR. Scholar training session is being organised for pupils and staff. Requests have gone out to other Lochaber schools for support. CMC is investigating 1 Skype option for 1 pupils off column. Assessments will be marked elsewhere. English – potential job share for 1 year post Maths – discussion on problems that arose last year. Improvements in workload this year are being made via in introduction of the integrated senior phase and the reduction of courses to Nat 4/5 which are mainly split into single levels with Higher taught separately. The timetable is more manageable Parents asked how the info on staff changes was shared with pupils to relieve their anxiety. This is done as Assemblies and pupils are informed of temporary posts as well as welcoming new staff. Where it is appropriate to give a length of absence, this is also shared.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion took place on support for staff. Suggestions to be considered were: Making use of the teacher representative to feedback any help the PC may wish to offer Parents acting as advocates for the schools and remaining positive in the community Dealing with the Care and Learning service changes and the financial situation Website staff list to be changed to not show vacancies?</li> <li>• <b>Celebration of Success</b> – CMC to consider ways to involve more staff in the event. Parents maintain that teachers need to be visible. CMC shared disappointment in having received a complaint concerning dissatisfaction with awards allocation. The process was consulted on twice at the request of the Parent Council and altered to meet suggestions. The Parent Council endorse the results of the consultations and the subsequent actions and the process now in place</li> <li>• <b>SQA results.</b> Article on website and in de tha Dol this month. Highlights as in article. Parent Council recognised the results were generally above Highland average. Lochaber Housing Association award for Academic Excellence will be made at Assembly next month. Once pupils are informed, CMC will inform the PC.</li> <li>• <b>Curriculum</b> Flexibility in subjects demonstrated in Bus Man – on offer via Scholar with mentor support from KR ICT and Com Science – through WHC Adv Higher English – through partnership with Mallaig High School Psychology – WHC distance learning with JMC as mentor German – EMCA offering new course and supporting 1 pupil off column through distance learning with Mallaig. Hospitality – delivery flexible with tutor and partnership support</li> <li>• <b>Self Evaluation and Leadership</b> CMC has not been delivering as many updates as last year, but S&amp;Q report has been prepared along with the School Improvement Plan and is constructed from actions required in evidence from consultations and HMI letter. The summary or priorities for the coming year is well underway and is in the process of being discussed with the Leadership Team. Projects written which will actively involve all staff. The S&amp;Q report is the key document for sharing progress and Improvement priorities with parents.</li> <li>• <b>Homework Consultation</b> Closing to pupils this week. Results will be analysed and brought forward to next meeting. The information will feed into the Improvement Plan – some actions may be immediate – some may take longer. A reminder that ongoing revision is a key part of revision.</li> <li>• <b>Ethos Consultation</b> Live today. Key messages will feed into the Improvement Plan. The QI Team return on 2/3 October to write a report for the authority</li> <li>• <b>Education Scotland</b> visit is planned for this week on the Strontian Primary School relocation</li> <li>• <b>Current or Upcoming Events</b> Inservice programme for staff for year S6 buddy programme launch and ongoing</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Pupil Council reps voted in by end of today. Invite from Parent Council to Pupil Council to attend meetings or feed in points.</p> <p>Young Chef competition starting soon</p> <p>West Highland Way fundraiser by S6 pupils</p> <p>KR swim for MacMillan Cancer</p> <p>World Challenge event – early interest meeting this week</p> <p>CMC is looking for a volunteer driver or opportunity to transport 1 pupil on a Wednesday to attend WHC.</p>	
4. AHS Room 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KMCL and LC met with Claire Gibb, Leader of Caol Room 13 Project</li> <li>• 2 American Art graduates visiting for 1 month and will run as workshop in AHS, every Tuesday for 5 weeks.</li> <li>• Workshops are pupil led and self sustaining. Brainstorming session Tuesday at 4 p.m. this week</li> <li>• Question asked on clash with after school study and in general clashes for pupils on subjects. Discussion followed. A trial of running classes on a Monday with free transport last year was not successful.</li> </ul>	
6. PSE Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 further meetings have taken place with the Review Group</li> <li>• Outcomes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mental health awareness is important as a small part of delivery. It is now better understood.</li> <li>2. 2 sessions per year with each year group has been agreed with Ewen's room involvement</li> <li>3. PSE programme will be put on website once confirmed</li> <li>4. Children are entitled to received an appropriate educational experience and parent choice in requesting an exemption from PSE is not an option.</li> <li>5. Concerns over parts of the PSE programme delivery were resolved at the meetings with a decision that Eilish Maclellan will oversee the mental health awareness delivery and ensuring a link with a professional after the sessions is available. EMCL will attend sessions if a vulnerable person is involved.</li> <li>6. Use of partners enables an inclusive approach to delivery</li> <li>7. Qualifications of those involved in delivery will be shared</li> <li>8. Next steps – discussion with ewen's room and share outcomes with parents</li> <li>9. Ewen's room to be invited to share resources at next parent council</li> <li>10. Partnership event – opportunity to be open and inclusive and share involvement.</li> <li>11. Minutes of review group are confidential and action points from second meeting minute will be shared.,</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	PK
7. Partnership Awards	<p>Some suggestions made. Nominations to be considered for next meeting. Pupil Council to be asked for nomination.</p>	All CMC
8. Duke of Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sets of grants have been received since June from Awards for All</li> <li>• £3137 for silver kayaking expedition</li> <li>• £750- for bronze walking expedition</li> <li>• Fundraising by the Pupils at the Sunart Show was £152</li> <li>• Together with parent contributions of £50 for each young person taking part, the fund now stands at £6583 which is a healthy sum and will enable the scheme to continue into next year.</li> <li>• Planned events (weather dependent) are</li> </ul>	

	<p>5/6 September and 27/28 September - bronze walking practice and expedition - 5 young people</p> <p>13/14 September and 11/12/13 October - silver kayaking practice and qualifying event - 3 young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EJ/AC will meet in October to plan next year's events</li> <li>• DofE funding will be kept separately in AHS School Fund a/c</li> <li>• Awards for all funds will stay in Parent Council account</li> </ul>	
9. AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JM is looking to organise a Young Engineer's Club on Tuesday evening. This could include linking with local companies</li> <li>• Fay Rowantree was adopted as a new Parent Council member.</li> <li>• Summer Quiz Winner agreed.</li> </ul>	
10. Next Agenda items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Engineer's Club</li> <li>• Partnership Event – potential to join with Xmas Fayre</li> <li>• Ski Club – volunteers AT, KMCL, JM</li> </ul>	
11. Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.00 p.m.</li> </ul>	