

ARDNAMURCHAN HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL – Extraordinary meeting

DATE OF MEETING: 2nd April 2019

PRESENT: Teresa Bolton, P Kennedy, C Millar-Craig, Andy Tilling, Morvern MacLachlan, Rosie Curtis, Jamie McIntyre, Stevie Aitken, Hollie Taylor, Elaine Jackson, Laura Sutherland, Norma Young, Don Esson

ABSENCE: Jackie Fleming

1. Minutes and updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Apologies had been received 	
2. Introduction	<p>Teresa Bolton introduced Norma Young, Area Care & Learning Manager and Don Esson Quality Improvement Manager who had called the meeting tonight to discuss the potential 3-18 modelling for Ardnamurchan High School and Strontian Primary School (SPS).</p>	
3. Management of Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NY gave a short introduction to the modelling taking place for the Management of Schools in Highland Council The purpose of the meeting tonight was shared and is about looking at how we staff the primary schools with Headteachers and the model across the Associated School Group (ASG). Current model was described. CMC was asked to take on the acting HT role across both schools in October following several recruitment exercises failed to identify any suitable candidates for the Primary Headteacher vacancy, and this has been in place since November. From tonight's SPS parents' meeting, the parents present were happy with the leadership so far and would like this to continue Tonight there is a discussion for secondary parents on how they feel the model would affect them There will be a remodelling in this ASG for 2021 – this discussion is on planning for an earlier transition This is a presentation tonight – further meetings will be held after the Easter break. DE delivered the presentation who thanked TB for meeting earlier with DE and Andrew Baxter. The programme is now called Sustainable Schools. A number of different models have come out of aspirational ideas. By 2021 the model will be there will be no single primary school teaching heads. Model looks at Business Admin, professional development, recruitment, ICT and Chromebook The presentation delivered is attached to the minute. <p>Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPS parents – majority were in favour of the 3-18 model SPS missing some essential facilities – halls, gym space etc Proximity of Nursery and AHS are an advantage Proposed Management Team for a 3-18 model was displayed which included the agreement that we wish permanent primary staff preferably not a probationer HC will be building promoted post structure in the primary sector Opportunities for promotion within Business Support Developing collegiate working across ASG for specialist provision e.g. literacy Reducing duplication in developments across a number of schools Collaboration was promoted across 3-18 and cluster models in 	

	<p>primaries. Management Team can create opportunities for support across a grouping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from Quality Improvement Officer (QIO) or alternative person for developing primary/nursery expertise will continue • Transition experience was promoted • ASN collaborative approach with linked person • Infrastructure being built around school groupings in a way that they can be supported in the best way possible working towards the sustainability of small schools. 	
<p>4. Questions from the floor</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefits are apparent to primary schools but what will the secondary gain from this? Norma Young (NY) answered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 management time is allocated to a teaching Primary Head – single primary teaching head is not a full time post. • CMC has had discussions with his management team about what is needed to support them • Management of Additional Support Needs has been brought to the table by Chris as one point which will be addressed 2. Has a decision been made? Are other options still available? NY answered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of governance as to how decisions are made. Decision is that this would go to the Ward Business meeting to share with members and to ask challenging questions • This is a preliminary discussion. 3. Who would make the decisions? NY answered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors were invited and Andrew Baxter apologised for not being present tonight. • Concerns should be discussed with local councillors 4. Are Mallaig happy with the model now it is rolled out? NY answered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – stakeholder group has been set up and the minuted meetings show that they are happy • Change takes time • A consensus of opinion will be taken over the proposed model for AHS and SPS. • Some discussion on the Mallaig model (DE) 5. 3-18 model – is it just with Strontian at the moment or would it be widened? NY answered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no plan at the moment to widen the model • The current situation was described • Possibility of a 2 x 2 cluster model for the remaining 4 primaries in the future • Discussion on Lochaline future but no decision on that future modelling. It was used as an example 6. RC expressed the view that no-one in the West wants this 3-18 model to go ahead. Focus on AHS is required from AHS Headteacher. Option for pupils to go to Mull is now becoming a livelier debate in Kilchoan 7. Following concern expressed by parents (EJ) over what happens if things go wrong in AHS, NY asked for specific concerns about how it might go wrong 	

- AT – what happens if there are not enough teachers and HTs and DHTs have to cover
8. What are the benefits for AHS pupils?
NY answered
 - Making sure we have a sustainable education on the peninsula
 9. How does this model improve the education of high school pupils? Expectations of primary school parents have been raised – what about high school pupils?
NY answered
 - This is not about improvement – it is about the management of schools
 10. If 3-18 goes ahead – there is a loss of CMC from the high school. We haven't talked about what replaces that? We have been told that the additional resource will be provided to cover the extra work and allow workload to be spread in different directions
 - What additional resource? (TB)
 11. Principal Teacher is getting 1 day management time (HT) plus a few hours more for their class contact reduction entitlement
 12. CMC shared some personal thoughts
 - Working in the primary is a pleasure and learning experience
 - CMC will have no financial gain from the new model
 - Understanding of transition needs from primary to secondary have developed and the last 6 months have been an opportunity to learn and understand this better
 - Team Leader work in terms of consistency, council office policy has been happening for 5 years– direction of travel in Highland that ASGs should work more closely together and that will continue whether or not the 3-18 model goes ahead. A lot of this is to do with sustainable communities across Highland and by looking at ways to work together is helping.
 - CMC rational is about sustainability for this wider Ardnamurchan community. AHS was built to help stem population decline and has definitely helped. CMC commitment is that whatever change is made that it works for the wider community. CMC preference is to be in control of the building use by primary colleagues
 13. Kilchoan PS will object (RC)
 14. It has to work for AHS – team shared their needs earlier. (CMC)
 15. One comment from an SPS parent appears to think they will benefit from improved Gaelic teaching. Has this been promised?
(TB)
Don Esson (DE)
SPS have not been offered any additional curriculum developments. There will be no expectation or demand on any High School teachers with this model
 16. HT option for SPS – may not be possible with new direction of travel. Could SPS be clustered with other primary schools?
DE answered
Opportunity for parents to be more in charge of what may happen. We will give out a generic email address to parents to enable them to comment.
TB made clear her role is to represent AHS, not those of peninsula

primary schools. Highland Council need to engage with primary school parent councils themselves Concern that opportunities to maximise benefits for all is not going to happen.

NY commented

Acharacle – has lovely facilities as does Lochaline. SPS does not have these facilities. Only use of AHS facilities will be by SPS.

Discussion re favourable opportunities for some primaries over others

Question? – what happens if there is not a successful PT appointment at Strontian Primary School?

NY answered

There are interested members of staff already

Difficult to recruit HTs for small primary schools in this area as they are low on the HT job-sizing toolkit

17. Parents have the impression that we are fully occupied here.

CMC answered

AHS management team were asked what we need to ensure we can continue to provide services in AHS.

18. Strength of negative feeling here is surprising – it has taken some time for SPS to come to terms with this.

- A generic email address will be shared. NY would like to understand why there are any objections so we can understand better. (NY)
- TB asked us all to think about sustainability for the future. We all want the very best education and opportunities for all children in our communities but we need to ensure we work together to achieve this.
- SPS has been told exactly what additional hours the new model will provide. It was agreed that NY/DE would provide similar information for AHS parents. If the same was offered for AHS, it would help. Sustainability for all will be a benefit.
- Some discussion amongst parents about primary schools in the area and who benefits.
- Potential for another meeting before 13th May if it could be managed. Parent Forum meeting was suggested
- Positive comments were received from some people present.
- A question was asked about all primaries on the peninsula being involved? A stepped approach would be recommended by NT.
- A councillor meeting was suggested with the parent council but it was suggested that this happens after a wider forum consultation.
- CMC shared the tremendous achievement by AHS of creating the identity of a wider Ardnamurchan community and this is not something we should lose.
- 29th April suggested – Notice of Meeting to be issued within 2 weeks – 7pm

To summarise, it was agreed that

1. Parent Forum Meeting will be held on 29 April at 7pm
2. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed to all parents before the end of term with a copy of DE's presentation
3. NY/DE will provide a simple breakdown of staffing under the proposed modelling, highlighting additionality.
4. NY will provide a generic Email address to allow /encourage AHS

	<p>parents to comment freely on the proposals.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 0855.</p>	
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