

Present

Claire Horsburgh (Chairperson), Holly Ross, Carol McManus, Carlie Davidson, Katie Banks, Fiona Mckay, Elaine Smith, Catriona Gray, Jenna Gray,

Aileen Mackay (HT), Emma Scott (Teacher Representative), Trish Robertson (Councillor), Morven Reid (Councillor)

Apologies

Duncan MacPherson, Ken Gowans, Rebecca MacLeod

| Agenda Item and Discussion | Action |
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| <p>Update from PC Apologies that we missed Term 2. Thank you to Mrs Mackay for keeping the school open on Wednesday with the snow, unfortunate about absences that closed the school on Thursday and Friday. Majority of parent forum supportive.</p> <p>Autumn disco made just over £1000. Some small changes were made - reduced some glowies and had hot dogs, to move towards a more sustainable and less sugar disco. Making subtle changes as we move forward.</p> <p><i>ES & CM - ear defenders were a great addition, would like more.</i></p> <p>Nursery received the tee pees and are enjoying them in each room. Tea & Coffee well appreciated by staff at Parent Contact and Jingle Jog.</p> <p>Jingle Jog raised over £400 and looking to be an annual event.</p> | |
| <p>Head Teacher Update/Report (see attached document) Lovely if the local councillor could come and thank Louise Mitchell for her service as she has been with us for so long - open invitation to Morven and Trish.</p> <p>Supply List - some names on the supply list are Teachers who have secured full-time work and do not come off the list as it may take 3/6 months to get back on it if needed. Still an issue with the PSA list and getting supply for reduced hours across the school. Aileen has looked herself at other systems (NHS and CALA) and sent her investigation to Highland Council to help with this ongoing issue.</p> <p><i>CG - (in reference to school being closed on Wednesday due to staff absences rather than snow) Even if we could have got 16 members of</i></p> | |

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| <p>staff for the days closed, they do not know the children or their needs and leaves them vulnerable. It is safer for everyone to close the school.</p> <p>KB - is there anyway to block certain comments on the Facebook page because some were unacceptable.</p> <p>CH - we have tried but unfortunately haven't been able to</p> <p>AM - we haven't had any official complaints about the decision</p> <p>CG - it was a horrific decision to make, you cannot predict what will happen. We were told with a lot of notice and schools have closed with less notice. We are parents who need to look after our own children.</p> <p>CH - we already had Primary 1 close earlier in the week and with the weather as well, it was likely to happen.</p> <p>CH - (in reference to the Coffee, Crafts and Cake club on Friday) It has opened up conversations about different topics (sleep, etc).</p> <p>AM showed Parent Council our Vision, Values and Aims poster that is available in the foyer area of the school - devised with pupils from Early, First and Second Level to see what each area looks like and sounds like.</p> <p>There is no Highland Council policy that states (apart from ELC as it is required by a person over the age of 16) which children are able to walk home on their own - Aileen increasingly getting messages from parents with children in P2/3 allowing them to walk home themselves.</p> | <p>PC Members to have a think about trips for classes in and around the Inverness area</p> <p>AM would like parents and local community/councillors involved to develop what the values look like in the community.</p> <p>AM wants to be proactive in having a policy and a form to allow children to walk home from school/clubs themselves - RM, CM, ES agree to be part of working group.</p> <p>Trial a Smithton Parent Charter - we, as parents, are going to ensure that our children come with the right clothes, if there are any issues (i.e. with homework) they have communicated with parents. Would be included as part of enrolment pack.</p> <p>CH, HR & CM agree to be part of working group.</p> |
| <p>Constitution</p> <p>Mentioned at last meeting with draft copies taken home to look over - key points AGM needs 12 people to go ahead in September each year, minimum of 1 meeting per term.</p> | <p>Agreed and signed off.</p> |
| <p>Our Working Objectives</p> <p>What do we want to achieve?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road safety and parking at the Church | |

- 3 new policies, as previously discussed
- Late attendance would normally involve meeting Aileen for a chat, PC will try and support as a peer-peer discussion to give advice in an informal matter

Parking

CH has made contact with Ian Graham who has been dealing with the issue, was invited to our PC meeting but politely declined due to having no drawings of what they think will work in terms of updating the parking situation. This would be for a drop off area at the top area on Murray Road - Aileen was told at time of building that it there was no money for it from the PDU. CH has been assured of a meeting with PDU (Policy Design Unit).

CG - we are having to use Highland Council money because parents are choosing to not park safely. It is not Highland Council's responsibility, it is parents.

CD - the park across the side of the school is meant to be being made into parking?

TR - it is a community space and no longer fit for purpose as a park but will not be made into parking

JG - I appreciate the parking at the Church but I need to park at the school to be able to drop off and get to work on time.

CG - there is loads of parking around the school. There is no excuse for parking on the pavements

AM - I can only be in one place at a time and can't always be out front to keep an eye out. Have taken photos previously and passed on to the police who have followed up.

MR - have seen a massive difference at Balloch where the lines were changed for a drop off and gave the children right of way. It wasn't on a stretch of road like it would be here but hopefully something is done about it.

To be added to Parent Charter and kept on agenda for next meeting

Culloden Academy Building

No update to be given - no building until the 2026 session.

Wrap Around Care

Raised by a parent at the last meeting, CH has spoken to Liz Scott at Highland Council - would need a minimum of 12 signed up for session to go ahead (£5.05 per hour).

Need a room signed off by the Care Inspectorate for this to go ahead and need people recruited into roles. Would be 6-8 months before anything was set up.

AM - the Cabin room was approved previously, unsure if this needs to be on a yearly basis?

CG - difference in people wanting regular care and those who don't.

CM - would love to have it, would be a massive difference in cost compared to private Nurseries and in continuity of care.

CH to speak to Lisa Stuart to look at a room to be signed off. If we do, then CH to send out a questionnaire to see if this will be something to go forward.

Can explore Les Enfants/CALA to help support.

To be kept on agenda going forward.

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| <p><i>CH - had emails from prospective parents who would be enrolling in Smithton but haven't yet due to not being able to get wrap around care.</i></p> <p><i>MR - a lot of people were encouraged to use their funded hours in Nurseries rather than child minders which meant that child minders lost out and stopped.</i></p> | |
| <p>Fundraising</p> <p>Very conscious things are difficult for people - no fundraising before Christmas due to this.</p> <p>Looking for a focus group for Discos to look at dates and sustainability, etc.</p> <p><i>AM - should still keep pre-register otherwise you don't get in to help with contacts etc.</i></p> <p><i>ES - can we get a one-way system?</i></p> <p><i>AM - could come in main door and go out beside the Nursery but would have to move stalls and things.</i></p> <p><i>CG - think about pick up and drop off in terms of parking - cars coming in to main car park as people are trying to leave.</i></p> | |
| <p>Funding Requests</p> <p>Ear defenders - looking to see if we can buy 4 pairs.</p> <p>Put out to parents that they can bring their own for discos.</p> <p>Will be kept at the Office for anyone who needs them during the school day during events.</p> | <p>Signed off.</p> |
| <p>Dates to Note</p> | |
| <p>AOCB</p> <p>Christmas Card fundraiser - wanted to know from the PC how they felt it went? Raised over £800.</p> <p>Parent forum very positive and wondered if ordering could be earlier, if possible. Possibility of a class tea towel?</p> <p><i>JG - love the jackets that were ordered for Athletics. Is it possible to get t shirts for the children for events or the club?</i></p> <p><i>KB - I know Balloch have school t shirts in their house colours that children wear for P.E</i></p> <p><i>AM - myclothing.com did have them available which we got money from if purchased.</i></p> <p><i>MR - Smithton Community Council are needing people to get it back up and running.</i></p> <p><i>AM gave examples of how P3 children see being responsible. Should have the children driving the decisions and making their adults go.</i></p> | |

Parent Council Meeting

Date: 25.01.24

Time: 5:45pm

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| Date of Next Meeting | |
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