

Bun Sgoil Shlèite Parent Council – meeting (online) on 24th September 2020.

Present: Tracy Broadley, Karla Shone, Kathryn MacKay, Catherine de Vries, Hazel Morrison (HT), Su Rennie, Lisa Hyslop, Abigail Burnyeat, Beth Campbell, Angela MacKay, Floraidh Forrest, Keith MacKenzie.

Apologies: Gwen Culbertson

Welcome: Introductions and welcomes were made, with Beth attending her first PC meeting.

Matters arising: The last meeting was in June, when parents and teachers met to discuss phased return of pupils to school – a plan that was later changed to a full return.

It had been hoped to invite last year's P7s to a proper 'goodbye' – possibly at Christmas, but ongoing and new Covid restrictions made this look unlikely.

Thanks were made to Hazel Morrison, who stood down as HT at the end of last term, but then stepped up again for the start of the 2020-21 session. With pupils returning to an unprecedented situation, Hazel's efforts and leadership through these difficult times are greatly appreciated.

Staffing and school: Hazel praised the children for adapting so well to the 'new normal' since returning to school. Hot meals were due to begin next Wednesday.

As part of Covid cleaning protocols the school still needed a mid-day cleaner for 7.5 hours a week. A PSA has been doing this job up until now which takes away 40 minutes a day from their classroom support. The school will continue to be cleaned with the current arrangement if they are unable to fill the post.

Gwen Culbertson has been working on a new school website and is willing to update it as and when is needed. The Parent Council would like to express their thanks .

New Head teacher: Katie Wight, from Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pairce in Edinburgh had been appointed as the new head teacher, and will be taking up the post in November.

Accommodation is an issue, and the PC agreed to assist in the search and to spread the word that Ms Wight and her family were seeking a place to rent.

There were already fears that without a place the HT may have to defer the appointment. **Action: Everyone**

Fundraising/Finance: Kathryn said there was £2,185 in the bank. Recent outgoings included presents for departing teachers and PC members, while £50 had been received from Young Films for use of the MUGA for filming.

Various ideas for fundraising was discussed, and actions agreed:

- Catherine and Norma MacPherson are going to investigate a sponsored walk.
- Tracy Broadley and Angela MacKay agreed to look into a lucky square raffle.
- Floraidh Forrest will look to arrange an 'online ceilidh'.
- Tracy Broadley will look into setting up a JustGiving site for the Parent Council.

PC Support: It was agreed that more playground equipment is required, particularly since children are restricted to small areas. It was asked why football is not currently allowed, and Hazel said that it's because of the relatively confined areas the children are allowed to play in, not because of the risk of infection from Covid.

Hazel mentioned that English books are also required, particularly novels for the older children.

Action: Abigail Burnyeat agreed to help with an 'audit' of books to see what was needed.

School garden also in poor condition and in need of a tidy-up at some point. **Action:** None agreed due to current restrictions

Catherine said she would ask the Sleat Community Trust to see if there are any funds they could assist us with. *Update: Tracy has contacted them and we are asked to provide them with a figure.*

Nursery/Sgoil Araich new build: Hazel expected confirmation this week on a starting date. Had been hoped to start in October holidays. A team was due to equip the demountable unit to allow the Sgoil araich to move in there.

Hazel confirmed that with the nursery and Sgoil Araich in separate buildings each morning, moves could be made to extend the provision towards the 1140 hours that had previously been the target.

Staffing and lunch time arrangements may be the biggest obstacle, but there was potentially scope to see the hours extended from January. This would need to be done in consultation with Highland Council.

AOCB: Catherine de Vries raised concerns the 20mph limit signs at the school – the warning lights were still not working. *Update- This is a Highland wide problem linked to a Vodafone issue. Highland Council have managed to get the lights on trunk roads fixed and are now beginning to work on other roads with signs.*

PC agreed to these concerns and was happy for letters/emails to be sent to relevant authorities.

Action: Catherine de Vries

Karla enquired about school closing earlier on a Friday, as was now happening elsewhere.

Hazel suggested this could be introduced from 2021-2022 but was unlikely to be earlier, due to transport contracts.

Lisa asked about Additional Support Needs provision. The school did now have Brenda McCallum for a half day a week – with her main focus going on children with the most need (normally those with a child's plan).

Parent/teacher meeting and reports: There would be none this term, but the plan was to hold some online meetings after October.

PC said it would support the school for any plans to have a Hallowe'en celebration, given that door-to-door guising was unlikely this year.

Date of next meeting: November, TBC