

Associated Schools Group Parent Council

23.05.18 – 7.00pm IT Room, Kinlochbervie High School

In attendance – Christine Corbett, Christine MacKenzie, Richard Flannery, Selena Campbell, Audrey Morrison, Andy Walker, Julie Allan.

Graeme Smart - Head Teacher

Apologies – Aileen MacDonald (Depute), Katy Lee, Denise MacDonald, Iona Shaw, Carol Anne Forsyth, Maureen Foley, Dylan Foley, Fiona Newton, Jacqui Ann Munro, Amanda Amos, Christina MacKay, Tanya Morrison, Leanne McKee.

Minutes of last meeting – Approved J Allan, Seconded R Flannery

Matters Arising – Vision and Values Working Group – A draft vision statement has been produced and will be circulated to parents for comment. Addition suggested – respect for property.

Homework Working Group – New homework diaries have been ordered for next session. At primary level effort will be made to achieve consistency across the schools. Durness Primary has not had regular homework due to lack of permanent teacher but as someone has been appointed to post this should resolve itself. In the High School there will be communication between staff to ensure pupils are not overloaded and the homework policy will be strictly adhered to.

Work Experience – Parents and pupils are encouraged to look at the Hi-Hope website for information on available placements. Of the 4 S4 pupils who wanted to do work experience 2 are now going to the St Andrews Summer School and the other 2 will have something arranged in September. Cara Cameron the Youth Development Officer will work with pupils as she is also responsible for the role of Developing the Young Workforce. It is possible that where necessary some expenses would be paid to enable a pupil to take up a placement away from home.

Kenya – a public event is being arranged to celebrate, publicise the connection between the 2 schools and the work that has been done on promoting gender equality.

College Placements – As has previously been discussed the main stumbling block is transport and distance. It was felt that if at all possible pupils should be given the opportunity to access the College. G Smart was to investigate the possibility of accommodation and if any funding would be available.

Pupil Equity funding will be at the same level as this year.

D.O.E – the scheme is up and running and working well.

Parents Evenings – Arrangements will be made to streamline the process depending on the numbers involved.

Head Teacher's Report – attached. This was circulated to all present.

Matters Arising from head Teacher's Report – Wednesdays – Getting to KLB for start of school means a very early start for the primary pupils especially the younger ones. A later start of 9.30am was to be investigated. There would be a knock-on effect at the end of the day.

The new HS timetable starts on 28.5.18. There will be 33 50-minute periods plus 5 mins each morning for registration etc. this means school will finish at 1.25pm rather than 1.00pm as at present.

Busses will leave at 1.40pm. Notice has been given to change the time of the service bus.

Entrants – At present KLB Primary 1 or 2 P1s, Scourie 2, Durness 1. KLB High School 10.

Leavers Dinner – A venue for the dinner and subsequent dance has still to be finalised. There has been contact made with Farr and Ullapool re holding joint social events.

Kinlochbervie Primary Inspection – The full report is available on the Education Scotland website. Graeme Smart has concerns about the methodology under which the inspection was conducted. Inspectors guidelines are geared to stand alone schools rather than ASG 3 – 18 schools. The 3 – 18 ASG model is a Highland Council initiative to combat difficulties in recruiting head teachers as well as giving cost savings. Education Scotland the government body overseeing education in Scotland does not differentiate between an individual school and a school which is part of an ASG. Highland Council is meeting with Education Scotland to make them aware of how their initiative works in practice so that in future the unique circumstances can be taken into account when inspections are carried out.

There was no allowance made for shared resources such as the library. It wasn't within the footprint of the primary school so didn't count despite it being easily accessible. As the inspection was carried out soon after the integration of the school's initiatives such as the tracking and monitoring working group had not had time to finalise their work so it was dismissed. The work of this group has been valuable and will possibly be rolled out over other schools in Highland. No account was taken of the new leadership structure as it is shared between the schools. Graeme Smart said the inspectors would return in a year's time for a follow up inspection and it was hoped by that time inspectors would have been issued with revised guidelines appropriate to the 3 – 18 ASG set up. He felt that on the whole parents were pleased with the school and how it was run. Action will be taken to resolve any educational issues highlighted. If requested there will be a meeting with KLB Primary parents to discuss the report. Any improvements undertaken as a result of the inspection in KLB will be rolled out to the other schools in the group.

Primary Schools – KLB, Scourie – No issues raised, Durness – New sex education guidelines – will parents be able to view the materials ahead of pupils – yes – ask Katy Lee or appropriate member of staff in other schools.

High School – No issues raised

Treasurer's Report – Current balance in High School account is £2,536.97. It was decided to give £500 to allow continued access to horse riding until Lottery or Sport Scotland funding could be found.

Correspondence - None

AOB – It was asked if the school might take pupils to the surfing instructor in Durness. Costs / opportunities will be investigated. Minutes of meetings are available on the website and will also be distributed to parents in the days following the meeting. If you have not received minutes please contact the school or the secretary and they will be forwarded. First Aid training is to be organised so that there is a bank of trained staff across all the schools in the group.

Date for next meeting – Tuesday 18th September 2018 7pm Venue – Durness Primary School

Meeting closed at 8.50pm