

## Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Present:** Jane Partridge, Karen Bevilacqua, Kirstie Moar, Rachel King, Kate Shiner, Jane Beckwith



**Apologies:** Steven Tulloch, Brenda Johnston, Fiona Towrie

	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
2.	<p><b><u>Adoption of Minutes from previous meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed by Karen Bevilacqua</li> <li>Seconded by Kate Shiner</li> </ul>	None
3.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Courtyard Equipment</u>. Jane thinks all benches are now in place and are proving very popular in the better weather.</li> <li>Kate C to update on funding applications at next meeting</li> <li><u>Meeting with prefects</u>. Still to get dates</li> </ul>	KC JP
4.	<p><b><u>School Report</u></b>  <b>School Update, Sept 2019</b>  <i>Staff</i>            This session we are pleased to welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catherine Lennon as Guidance Teacher of Magnus House, replacing Mark Berry who gained a position as Guidance Teacher at Kirkwall Grammar School. Catherine was formerly at Sanday Junior High School, as a Special Needs, English and Drama Teacher. She will also be supporting the English Department by teaching a Higher class; this enables us to make two smaller classes rather than one large one.</li> <li>Julie McConnell as Teacher of Technical Subjects.</li> <li>Leyla Gunn, a former Stromness Academy pupil, as Probationer Teacher of PE. Since a Probationer Teacher does not teach a full timetable, we have also been able to keep Fiona Hamilton, who was with us last year as Probationer Teacher, on a part-time basis in the PE Department.</li> <li>Martin McGeary, who has returned to Orkney and is working with us part-time teaching English and Drama, after Emma Grieve and Catriona McCulloch moved to part-time positions. Having four people in the English Department means we are able to split our S4 cohort into smaller classes, as part of our aim to raise attainment in Literacy.</li> <li>Filio Tei, who is with us as temporary Teacher of French, covering Rosemary McLaughlin's secondment to KGS</li> <li>Lorna Lea, who has joined us as a Support for Learning Assistant. This post is temporary for one year, since the requirement for support is reviewed each year to meet the changing needs of pupils.</li> </ul> <p>Amy Houston, Teacher of Biology/Science started maternity leave in September. We have used her hours to employ Rachael Crooks, who was with us last year as Probationer Teacher of Chemistry/Science. This year Rachael, who worked in Engineering before becoming a teacher, will be teaching Engineering Science and Maths, as well as Science. This is enabling us to split our S4 cohort into smaller groups as part of our aim to increase attainment in Numeracy.</p> <p>Aline Lidwell (Principal Teacher of Geography) and Melanie Johansen (Guidance Manager) are both now permanent in the roles which they fulfilled on an acting basis last session.</p> <p>We are currently recruiting for a Depute Head Teacher; Parent Council representatives and pupils are involved in this process.</p> <p>We are also recruiting for a Clerical Assistant, as Kelly Drever has moved on to a full-time post; we have supply cover in the office at present.</p> <p><i>Examination results overview</i></p>	ALL

Our results were very positive this year; headlines will be presented at the September Parent Council Meeting. Principal Teachers have been meeting individually with the school Senior Management Team in the past week to analyse their departments' performances and set priorities for their Departmental Improvement Plan, and the information from these meetings will feed into the whole school Attainment Review with James Wylie, the newly appointed Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, in early October. This will then help to set the School Improvement Plan for 2019-20.

A review of progress against the 2018-19 School Improvement Plan (known as the school's Standards and Quality Report) will be presented at the next Parent Council Meeting.

#### *Inservice Days*

Please note that there will be two extra in-service days for this year only. This has resulted from the Teacher Unions' pay agreement, and is a measure to address teacher workload. The days are to be used to tackle tasks which will have a sustained effect on workload. At Stromness Academy departments are setting their agendas for this time. As there have been changes to SQA examinations each year for the past 3 years, many departments will be spending the in-service time creating new course plans, assessments and/or learning materials to reflect these changes.

The extra days are:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

The S3 Parents' Evening scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February has been moved to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, recognising that parents may wish to take the opportunity to travel away from Orkney in this extended February break.

#### *Barnados Visit, Weds 2nd October*

Due to an increase in reported cases of Child Sexual Exploitation in Orkney, Barnados are visiting to deliver sessions for pupils, parents and staff, covering both CSE and Child Criminal Exploitation. All pupils will have a session that day (opt-outs will be offered by Guidance Teachers where there is a known sensitivity, such as a current CSE case). CSE does not only refer to high profile cases of teenagers being used for prostitution or drug-running; it also refers to grooming, sexting, pressure to participate in sexual activity or use drugs/alcohol and unhealthy relationships where there is an imbalance of power. Young people are at risk of being involved in CSE both as victim and as perpetrator, and these sessions aim to support young people in recognising and minimising risk.

**Sessions for parents are also being offered, at 1:00 – 2:30 and 7-8:30pm, in the Warehouse Buildings (Stromness Library).**

#### *School Health are now in Stromness Academy every Monday:*

The role of the school nurse has been refocused recently and as a result we now offer Health Zones on a weekly basis in Secondary schools. We are based on the balcony with information leaflets for the pupils. Our red post box for referral cards is also on the balcony. We are available for drop-in sessions in an allocated room. We are offering 1:1 sessions to pupils and we are developing a system for them to see us during class time. We are able to offer support and advice around mental health/wellbeing, healthy relationships and lifestyles, sleep, sexual health, substance misuse, online safety and much more. We are also available to offer workshops about teenage sleep as we are Sleep Scotland Counsellors. Any questions, please feel free to ask! Louise, Hannah and Thisbe

#### **Upcoming Events**

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Silver DofE Practice Expedition
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Silver DofE Practice Expedition
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	S3 Interim report published
	Higher PE basketball trip to KGS, 10:30, back for P5
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Higher/Advanced Higher Geography Field Trip
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Maths week starts
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	BGE Pupil Council Meeting 12:50
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	SP Pupil Council Meeting 12:50
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents' Meeting – S2 Hoy Trips, 6:30
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Concert
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	S2 Interim Report published
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	S1 Interim Report published

	<p>Volleyball trip to Aberdeen S4-6 School Disco Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Oct Last day of Term – Pupils return Weds 30<sup>th</sup> October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion regarding exam results.</li> <li>• Literacy – N4 has improved considerably. N5 improving but room for improvement. Only 3 pupils left school without gaining at least a N4</li> <li>• Numeracy – N4 excellent. N5 risen from last year.</li> <li>• Highers- pass rate increasing on last year and well above average.</li> <li>• Advanced Higher – had a problem with kids who have had an unconditional offer for Uni dropping out of school during the course or just not applying themselves in the same way.</li> <li>• Discussion about how parents paying for private tuition is impacting on the grades. All agreed that it would be interesting to know just how many families are doing this and at what cost.</li> </ul> <p>(Next meeting, Standards and Quality Report)</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b></p> <p>Based on her pay in stubs and cheques written plus the money from the latest concert the balance is sitting at £6,098.08. Of this money there is £1,694.24 ring fenced for courtyard equipment (this balance will be reducing to £734.24 once the cheque for the benches has cashed). There is also a working float of £186.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Fundraising Report.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffle for This is Their Moment was successful and raised just over £340.</li> <li>• Fundraising meeting will need to be organised ASAP as the need for more funds is evermore apparent from the funding applications from Departments.</li> <li>• We have a table booked at the Primary School Winter Fayre for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We are planning to do a lucky square again for a Christmas Hamper and also for a Chocolate Hamper. This is a low effort for good return fundraiser. We will be appealing to parents and carers for donations of specific items for the Christmas hamper, and chocolate donations in general. We will need volunteers to help man the stall on the day.</li> <li>• Autumn concert coming so we will again be running a raffle. Donations gratefully received and volunteers to help with the raffle tickets also good. Really we need three people to run it otherwise getting the tickets folded for the draw is a bit tight timewise.</li> <li>• We are keen to run another 'big' event as it is a good return for effort and also contributes to local life.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b><u>Fundraising Requests</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of £3,403 is available to be allocated which leaves us with a working balance of £1k to run any future big events. It was agreed that this was an exceptional amount to be able to work with and made allocating funds much simpler.</li> </ul>	

	<p>After discussion the following allocations were made:-</p> <p>Games - £100  Art – Jewellery project £460  HE – Replacement of equipment £1728  PE - £305 for Sports Ambassador Programme  Geography - £702.39</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Skills Development Scotland</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to organise a parent session – After discussion it was agreed that their continued presence at the course choice info meeting as per normal was sufficient.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b><u>Any Other Competent Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Exam Results</u>. Already discussed.</li> <li>• <u>Communication</u>.. website very positive and the daily bulletin is a great addition. Concern has been raised by a few parents about failures in communication with the school office. There have been a number of occasions where parents are receiving text messages saying their children are absent when the office has already been informed.</li> </ul> <p>There has also been a few cases of parents dropping off items for their children (musical instruments etc) and the office has not contacted the child to let them know the item is there for collection. Parents can't notify their children via text, for example, due to them not being allowed phones turned on in class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Yearly Permission Forms</u> is there any way of reducing the paperwork so yearly forms don't have to be filled in if there are no changes? JP explained that they have reduced this need as much as possible but their computer system simply won't allow for it to be further reduced. JP explained that the computer programme that is used is not user friendly. This is an issue for all of Orkney. RK made a note of this issue to raise with James Wylie.</li> </ul>	<p>JP</p> <p>RK JP</p>
	<p><b><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• The meeting was called to a close at 20.30.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p>