

Stromness Academy Parent Council Minutes

Monday 26th September 2022

7pm

Stromness Academy

1. Present:

Kerry Spence, Caroline Lourie, Lian Brown, Babette Hegarty, Mary Donn, Kate Shiner, Sally McNeish, Ailsa Winterbourn (online via Teams)

No apologies

Babette to pass on Mark Summers email address to the office to be added to the email list.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes approved with no amendments

3. Matters Arising

a) Tues 8th November S1 parents evening – raise profile ahead of the AGM on 14th November

Baking: Sally M, Kate S, Mary, Caroline to bake

Kerry and Gillian to be on the stall – compile list of possible members and also fundraising volunteers – 2 lists

Babette to locate leaflets made by Jane Partridge

b) Office Bearers

Kerry to contact Susan Mackay at the College/Employability Team about taking on Parent Council secretary. BH suggested Nicola Sutherland.

Gillian – Lorraine's sister Karen Ritch has agreed to check and verify the accounts. Kerry to email Fiona T to complete accounts and pass to Karen to audit before AGM.

c) Staffing

HT post - Out for 3rd advert, 20th October closing date. Interviews scheduled for Wed 16th-Thurs 17th November. Fiona may be stepping down: Kate S and Caroline (tbc) to undergo recruitment training and attend interviews Thurs 17th if possible.

Probationers have started, going well. PT Business recruited last week, to start asap.

d) D of E

Plan to reinstate: Current S6 who started Bronze will have the chance to complete expedition before the end of the year. School has secured a grant for their own outdoor equipment. Kerry queried the timing of this as leavers can be gone by April/May. BH to ask Paul Barbour to plan this for the earliest opportunity.

4. HT update

a) Events

School is beginning to return to normal after Covid:

Careers Fair went well and included S4s this year. Organisers complemented the pupils on being engaged and polite. Kate queried whether the arts could be more represented at this event? Kerry mentioned that invite was sent out widely and is dependent on response but will feed back to organisers. Gillian added that Carers were also underrepresented. QMU would be a good addition? Would a hybrid model allow more off island representation? Sally mentioned email gone out today about Scottish Universities Online Evening Event. This doesn't seem to have gone to all Senior Phase parents – could S4 be included? Could it be recorded/put on web? This tricky as it coincides with Senior Phase Parents Evening.

Safe Islander for S1. Some things haven't gone back to being in person eg Safe Drive, Stay Alive driver education has stayed online. Babette hoping that in person event might return next year.

b) Exam results good – up with national average for most results except rate of 5 Highers in one sitting. A number of pupils complete Advanced Highers early/take college courses which affects the 5 Higher rate. Factoring those in brings SA up to national average.

c) Attendance: OIC having a push on attendance: a “stretch target” of 95% attendance. Babette reported 89% attendance today as a sample. This likely to be reported: link between attendance and attainment.

d) School Improvement Plan:

- i) High Quality Teaching and Learning
Learning as teachers: Pedagogy (Bruce Robertson). Educational Book Club begins 27/9. Will also be conducting a survey of pupils on all 3 SCIP priorities.
- ii) Embedding Formative Assessment
Includes Reporting Systems. Seniors full written report plus parents eves. BGE (S1-S3) effort/behaviour/homework points plus parents eves. Attendance at parents eves is dropping, hoping that returning to the building will encourage reengagement.
- iii) School Environment: Safe and Respected.
2 big initiatives: UNICEF Rights Respecting School – Bronze by the end of the year. LGBTQ Charter. Pupil voice: House Captains will conduct assemblies re Rights Respecting Schools. Disco: Tues 4th October. Kerry and Sally queried the funds raised – prom? Pupils have thought this was the case. Babette clarified that disco money has always gone to school funds. Bus? Who pays? Prom is no longer a school event, so no money raised in school can be used for this.
- iv) Netball group is going south to the Scottish Schools Cup – could any spare funds be used for netball dresses (about £350). Could apply to the Community Council? Local company sponsorship?
Parent council agrees to contribute £350 to school for netball strips. Caroline to ask EMEC about sponsorship.

5. AGM – Monday 14th November 7pm in the Upper Library.

Babette to book the school

Office Bearers – none going forward. **Sally** to contact **Karen B (previous chair)** to ask for any previous procedures/resources

Kerry to find the constitution and put wording to Gillian

AGM needs to be advertised: **Gillian** to put on Radio Orkney. Office to put on the school Facebook page. **Kate** to ask Fiona T to close PC Facebook page. Can she present accounts at the AGM before stepping down?

Gillian to set up a WhatsApp group for group communication.

Caroline to lead fundraising sub committee, with thanks. (Kate mentioned that Kirsty Moar has been a big support with this in the past?)

6. Future Activities:

Reaching more parents: **S2 Parents Eve 8th December**. **Kerry** to cook mince pies.

12th Jan Course Choice Evening – hamper raffle. Hamper of prizes to be contributed by all members. Raffle prizes: **Caroline** to ask EMEC. **Everyone** to contribute a prize to be made into a hamper. **Gillian** to bring bow, **Sally** to bring basket, **Kerry** shredded paper. **Leanne** to buy tickets £1 each.

Babette to ask PTs for wish lists – new art PT wants to start pottery, larger canvases. To consider at next meeting after AGM.

Babette to share key dates

7. AOCB

1. Caroline: EMEC's 20th anniversary next year, keen to work closely with Stromness. To consider STE(A)M activities during transition weeks. **Mary** to find science/technical/arts teacher in SA who could act as liaison for this. Possible pupil group?

2. Kerry: can the lunches be split again? Pupils reporting lunch hall is full, queues down the street. Mary mentioned that school is keen to keep pupils on the premises: litter/late returning is an issue. BH replies that split lunches constrained the possibility of lunchtime activities which have now resumed. Could there be a cold mobile option? Payment makes this tricky – electronic system. There are a few options for seating already. Fewer children are eating full lunches. **School** to consider this.

8. Next meeting:

S1 Parents Evening 8th November – Kerry and Gillian, with thanks

AGM 14th November 7pm