

# Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

7pm Upper Library

Present: Sally McNeish, Dennis Dounaev, Kate Shiner, Caz Lourie, Paul Barber, Thorfinn Johnston, Olivia MacPherson, Kate Brown.

Apologies: Avril Hay, Graeme Paterson, Mark Summers, Kerry Spence

Adoption of previous minutes: Proposed by SM, seconded by KSh

Senior Phase Awards Evening - our involvement: Name of the evening is “Senior Phase Celebration Evening”. This is awards and not leavers’ event and will take place in the theatre. May 31<sup>st</sup>, Friday.

OM confirms there is a planning committee in place for this event.

SM suggests council bring table dressing and provide light supper/finger food. Suggestions include: Centrepieces, tablecloths, glasses and water? Food on table or main food supper at the end.

Achievement and Endeavour categories, also musical interlude (opportunity for food?) 2 phases of food, savoury at start and sweet during music?

Council could invest in table coverings for future use (although can’t guarantee same size tables used annually) CL suggests borrowing or hiring tablecloths etc. KSh thinks town hall have white tablecloths for round tables. CL keen to be environmentally conscious ie no plastic.

CL, KSh and SM involved in planning, also DD until 31<sup>st</sup>. TJ can help from the Tuesday of that week.

**OM will confirm how many tables will be required.**

**SM will ask on Whatsapp group to see who else can help on the night.**

So far SM, CL and TJ on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SM will message baking volunteers and find out from staff who can contribute.**

Laptop Returns: SM reports a parent was concerned about pupil laptops not being returned and therefore school facing losses. PB states a minority of laptops are damaged and all but 2 were returned last year. OM confirms lots of staff effort goes into following up laptops.

HT Report: Parent council reps will be included in recruitment process for Depute Head position.

CL asking if council can assist the school by putting pressure on OIC to speed up recruitment process.

OM thanks council for their commitment and involvement.

Stromness Academy being considered by OIC as accommodation for 2025 Island Games. There are concerns about how this would be achieved while the school remains open for teaching, and how much teachers would be expected to organise for the event and afterwards for the teaching term.

Mobile phones have been banned in class. Students are given a warning if they use phones, and then the phones are taken by the teacher if used again. Parents will be contacted after 3 infractions. Students have access to their phones at break and lunch. Teachers are adapting classes so as not to require phone use.

**PB to consult parents IF a full ban becomes an option due to school policy or Government legislation.**

OM – Guidance spoke with Stuart Bain re Bridge Street development and how they can consider needs of pupils.

*School staff PB and OM left meeting.*

Funding update and grant decisions: SM shared Financial Update Powerpoint. SM stated that PB had asked if council could commit to paying annually for something. Council feels that they can't guarantee that kind of payment as they can't foresee annual income.

At current financial levels, council could potentially offer £3000 whilst keeping £3000 cushion for future costs.

Council can contribute to Awards night/Celebration evening this year.

**Contribute £350 – Propose that Endeavour Awards are supported by Parent Council (although school will make final decision)**

**Council will provide decorations and supper but not soft drinks.**

Discussion was held over possible options for leftover Quiz Night drinks (eg. Using at Parents nights or offering to S6 for Prom. Alcohol could be kept for raffles)

Hoodies – For approximately 50-60 students in the year-group.

**Council will contribute £5 per head.** Hopefully make this annual but would have to look at finances each year.

S2 Hoy trip - If council contributes £1000 it only brings overall cost down by £10-20 per person. The council has supported other trips in the past but the Hoy trip benefits the most pupils and so the council is keen to support it.

Should council commit to fundraising for Hoy trip annually but not a specific amount? Or should Parent Council offer to support S2 parents in their own fundraising (in spring term)?

DD – could council match a percentage of parents fundraising?

**£1000 as one-off this year.** Going forward involve parents.

**SM – will ask school staff to mention this from start of Hoy trip info to parents next year.**

Any other competent business: N/A

Time and date of next meeting: SM suggests rather than end of year meeting, council holds it over until August and AGM (CL suggests council have a social gathering to mark the end of year)