



Chairperson:
Mrs Vaila Thomason
Rohan
Baltasound
Unst
ZE2 9DS

Clerk:
Miss H Sinclair
1 Brakefield Crescent
Haroldswick
Unst
ZE2 9EJ

Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held at Baltasound Junior High School on Tuesday 1st October, 2019, at 6.00pm in Room 4.

Present:

Mrs Vaila Thomason (Chair)	Mrs Erika Brown
Mr Murray Brown	Ms Colva Peterson
Margo Spence	Mrs Julie Thomson
Mr Derek Jamieson	Mrs Jane Macaulay
Mrs Karen Gray	
Mr Matthew Cox	

In Attendance:

Mr Paul Thomson
Miss Hazel Sinclair

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Kevin Priest, Cheryl Jamieson, Lisa Hunter, Victoria Mouat and Adam Ramsay.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 were read and approved.

Matters Arising From Minutes

Parent Council Staff Member Adam Ramsay will join as staff member, but was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Saltire Awards

Paul has picked this up with the S1 and S2s since Emily left. He stressed that students need to record all volunteering which is then submitted to Saltire in February. A piece on Saltire Awards could maybe be added in the Parent Council section of the next newsletter.

John Muir

Helen Hart has tried to take up John Muir, but it is hard to timetable it in as she already oversees Duke of Edinburgh and no longer stays in Unst, limiting time she can dedicate to it.

Polycrub

The frame of the polycrub is up, but the sheets still need to go on. A couple of days should see the sheets on with a little extra time to put the gable ends on.

Volunteering PVG's

The process to follow is PVG from the Council, then PVG update – any volunteers will need to follow this process.

Occasional Holiday Date

Monday 25th May – this is also the date chosen by Mid Yell Junior High School.

Attendance

Local Authority guidelines state that attendance should be no less than 90%.

Individual e-mails with attendances below this figure have been sent out directly to parents – which had received mixed responses from those concerned.

The Local Authority maximising attendance leaflet was discussed with most members agreeing that the statistics in percentages maybe wasn't as clear as stating the number of days absence each percentage relates to.

Various absence codes are used on SEEMiS, meaning that medical appointments for example are recorded differently to an absence due to illness.

Could the school have a highest attendance award?

Absence could be discussed at assemblies and statistics (percentages and then how many days equivalent missed) added into the next newsletter for parents.

Policies (HWB, Literacy/Numeracy)

Literacy, Numeracy and HWB policies which are on the Baltasound web page need to be updated.

Members were handed copies of the HWB policy and were asked to highlight any additions/changes to Paul within the next few weeks.

How Good Is Our School (HGIOS)

Discussion on the HGIOS document which can be found on the Baltasound web page.

The document contains 15 indicators which are used to assess how good your school is. It also indicates what is expected of parents and parents councils.

Curriculum/What Makes Us Unique

The What Makes our School Unique Document (right) discussed.

Staff tie in relative topics and students readily speak about topics.

What makes our school unique? What is outside our window!

Outdoor waterproofs supplied by Cooke Aquaculture for outdoor activities whatever the weather.

Safety – this is one of the safest places to live.

New motto - *Peerie School, Big Dreams*. We may be a small school, but we can do anything!

Parents - driving change into school – things parents believe should be fed into school.



AOCB

AHS Parent Council

Catriona Waddington had been in touch with Vaila to express concern that there is no isles representation on the AHS Parent Council, meaning that there is also currently no representation for the hostel students (except Fair Isle). Meetings are approximately quarterly, and anyone travelling from the Isles would be entitled to claim travel expenses when attending meetings.

Paul will communicate this information to both Mark (MYJHS) and Garry (Whalsay) who will make North Isles parents aware of the vacancy.

Next Meeting Next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November at 6pm.