

**Minutes of the Scalloway School Parents' Council  
Held on Tuesday 17 February 2009  
At 7.00pm in the Scalloway Staff Room**

**Present**

Karen Eunson – Vice Chair  
Clive Williamson – Chair  
Wilma Irvine – Parent Member  
Gwen Sales – Parent Member  
Paul Leask – Parent Member  
Mark Burgess – Co-opted Member  
Patrick Robertson – Co-opted Member  
Gregg Arthur – Co-opted Member

**In Attendance**

Joyce Gear – Head Teacher  
Iris Hawkins – Councillor

**1. Notice of Meeting**

The meeting was held as read. Clive Williamson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking Mark Burgess for agreeing to become a Co-opted Member.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Andrew Hughson, Betty Fullerton, Edna Nicol and Lynsey Rendall.

**3. Approve Minute of the Meeting of Tuesday 18 November 2008**

The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 18 November 2008 were approved by Karen Eunson and seconded by Paul Leask.

**4. Matters Arising**

● **Drugs Awareness Evening for Secondary Parents.**

Everyone felt this event went really well. Each of the six sessions were very interesting and worthwhile. It was felt that 20 minutes for each session was too short. Everyone felt that 45 minutes would be better. It was a shame there were not more parents who attended. Clive is to report back to the presenters, who would like feedback and to see how they thought it went.

**Action: Clive Williamson**

Paul Leask brought up Internet Safety, and a discussion followed and it was agreed that Patrick Robertson would speak to ICT and come back to the Parent Council. It was hoped this would happen in an evening and Joyce would like to try and incorporate something with this.

**Action: Patrick Robertson**

● **Blueprint for Education Consultation Meetings**

Karen received a copy of the Blueprint report and noted that it stated there were concerns over the questions in the questionnaire. Iris reported that the Blueprint working group, which involved Councillors, put the questionnaire together. Iris was concerned by Robert Henderson's comments that Primary Schools costs were similar to Orkney and Western Isles but Secondary Schools were far higher in Shetland. Joyce stated that it is very difficult to separate out some costs for Primary and Secondary for example water charges, rates, light bulbs, bin bags etc. Orkney is a very different shaped island to Shetland which makes the location of schools more central and makes it easier to have less schools .

Iris was pleased to see that the science block for Scalloway is still on the Capital Programme.

Joyce explained that that nursery provision, and ASN provision in Shetland will be looked at first due to the Scottish Government Legislation that has been put in place and then primary and finally secondary provision will be looked at. At the moment it is not clear nationally what the structure of Secondary provision will be. A timescale will be part of the Blueprint.

The Scalloway School roll is now 260. The roll has gone up by 16 or 17 since August. There will be 30 bairns in the Nursery very soon.

A discussion was held on Placing Requests. Hjaltland plans to build another 100 houses in the area and this will have an impact on the school. The local playgroup has gone from 7 to 20 this year.

Scottish Government proposal for class sizes to 18 would have a big impact on staffing and building works across Scotland.

Patrick feels that the falling school rolls at Lerwick schools could have an impact on the Junior Highs.

A discussion was held on the new AHS and the building of it before a model for the whole of Shetland.

- **Secondary Pupil Council**

Patrick to check with the Pupil Council before the next meeting.

**Action: Patrick Robertson**

- **Parent Volunteers**

Always glad of more volunteers.

- **Parking**

Joyce and Colin are trying to keep an eye on it. The police have been out as well. A letter was sent to all parents reminding them about the legal implications of parking on double yellow lines. Joyce noted that the parking was slightly better but people still do park on the yellow lines.

**Action: Joyce Gear**

- **Family Evening**

Nothing has been done about the family evening. Wilma is to take this forward.

**Action: Wilma Irvine**

- **Child Protection**

Paul Leask attended this course and is going to do another course on Child Protection.

## 5. **Appointment of New Chair**

It was decided for Karen to act as Chair until the AGM in the autumn and at the next meeting to set dates for the whole year.

## 6. **Recruitment**

Chemistry Post – There has been difficulties over disclosure. Disclosures are really slow and a mix up which has held up the process. The candidate has been emailed a start date and Joyce is awaiting a reply.

Rachel Donald P1 teacher – 9 March

Mrs Perry is covering from Nursery to P1.

Beryl Moar is covering Nursery with Nadine Inkster.

## 7. Crossing Attendant

20mph is hopefully going ahead in March and Robert Sim had written a letter saying no need for a Crossing Attendant now. Joyce to check with Robert Sim as she thought it was being advertised for.

**Action: Joyce Gear**

## 8. Standards and Quality Report

Will be reported at next meeting.

**Action: Joyce Gear**

## 9. Occasional Dates

Patrick has voiced concerns over the term dates and coming back to work on Monday 4 January 2010. Clive is to contact the schools service with regards to this.

**Action: Clive Williamson**

### Occasional Holidays 2009-10:

Day 1: Wednesday 27 January 2010  
Days 2 & 3: Friday 26 February 2010 & Monday 1 March 2010  
Day 4: Friday 28 May 2010  
Day 5: Monday 31 May 2010

### In Service Days 2009-10:

Days 1 & 2: Monday 17 August 2009 & Tuesday 18 August 2009  
Days 3 & 4: Monday 26 October 2009 & Tuesday 27 October 2009  
Day 5: Tuesday 1 June 2010

## 10. Recent Achievements by Pupils

Drama Festival has an entry this year

Nicole Mouat has been nominated as one of the Youth Voice representatives.

Pupils raised money for Clan 123 on purple Friday and raised more than most council departments, the primary department when organising the secondary dance raised £400.

As well as our link with Norway we now have a link with Japan, Scalloway secondary and Tingwall primary, 1 teacher and 1 pupil from S1 or S2 and 1 teacher and 1 P7 pupil from Tingwall will be going to Japan. Whiteness have already been successful and sent a P7 pupil to Japan. Hopefully Japanese students will come back to Scalloway in the future.

There is a music CD coming out soon which has been produced by S4 pupils in Business Studies and Music as part of an interdisciplinary project.

## 11. Correspondence

Backchats

Meeting Skills Training – Sat 7 March. Co-operative learning – leading meetings.

It was agreed for Zoe to try and get copies of letters etc that are issued and to email to everyone.

## 12. AOCB

Joyce thanked Clive for charring and successfully keeping the council working productively and for all his help in linking the Parent Council to the school. She also thanked him on behalf of the School for his support across the board.

Wilma had received a complaint. Library – Secondary pupils being denied access to library at lunchtimes as primary classes using the library.

Joyce explained that primary pupils and secondary pupils have staggered lunches and have an allocated time in the library during lunchtimes. When primary pupils are in the library, secondary pupils are not allowed in. Primary pupils goes back to class at 1.40. Secondary lunches finish at 2.05pm.

Everyone felt it is a good sign that parents are contacting parent members.

**Action: Joyce Gear & Patrick Robertson**

### **School Development Plan**

Some pupils will be interviewing their parents on the school and the way they would like to be more involved with the school. This is a pilot with various classes.

### **Staff Member**

Allan Skea has moved south, therefore there is a vacancy for a staff member, Joyce is to put on notice board to see if anyone interested including support staff.

**Action: Joyce Gear & Patrick Robertson**

### **ASN Working Group**

Julie Williamson is a member on the group. Is anyone else interested in joining this working group, please let Karen or Zoe know.

**Action: All parent members**

A letter is to be issued to all parents asking if anyone is willing to come on board the Parent Council. This would enable the parent council to organise more family evenings, etc. There is a shortage of secondary pupil parents and parents from the catchment areas. The Draft AGM Minutes, Chairpersons Report and Treasurers Report will accompany the letter.

### **Secondary Parents Evening**

Discussion centred on whether it is possible to allow parents more privacy at Parents' Evenings. Sometimes parents do push forward and wait too near to tables. Patrick felt that the problem only arises in S1 and S2. It will continue to be reviewed.

**Action: Joyce Gear & Patrick Robertson**

## **13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7.00 pm in the Scalloway Junior High School Staffroom.