

# Minute of Harris Academy Parent Council Meeting

Date 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022



**Attendance:** M. Macleod, B. Millar, E. Hallyburton, F. Macpherson, W. Cringle, K. Jones, K. Pradel, R. Perry V. Low, L. Tanaka, C. Gellatly, M. Crichton, N. Hancock, L. Coupar

## Apologies:

N. El Nakla, M. Stewart, K. Gillespie, K. MacDonald, C. Campbell

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| 1/2 | <p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>For the foreseeable future, Harris Parent Council meetings will be less formal so will not be proposed or seconded.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>There were low figures at the Alumni event, but those who did make it along pledged their support.</p>   |           |
| 3   | <p><b>Chair's Update</b></p> <p><u>Parent Council Constitution</u></p> <p>M. Macleod is proposing a review of Harris' PC Constitution. He will meet with P. Smith to discuss this. The proposals will be distributed to the wider parent forum in due course.</p>  |           |
| 4   | <p><b>Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team Update</b></p> <p><u>Attainment Overview</u></p> <p>Insight is a professional tool which is used to help secondary schools and local authorities identify areas of success and where improvements can be made for pupils in the senior phase (S4-S6.) Virtual comparators are made up of pupils from schools in other local authorities who have similar characteristics to pupils in Harris. B. Millar reported that the school consistently out performs their virtual comparators in Literacy and Numeracy.</p> <p><u>Curriculum Review</u></p> <p>This is on hold. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year offer needs to be changed before this can be progressed.</p> |           |

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|    | <p><u>Staffing</u><br/>Ongoing. The Technical department still has the biggest staffing challenges. At the moment Senior Phase is the priority.</p> <p><u>Christmas Fayre</u><br/>This will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am – 12 noon. Stalls will be offered to any parent and/or company, free of charge, but with the option of donating to the school's Christmas Charity appeal.</p> <p><u>Bingo Night</u><br/>Harris Parent Council will support this event.</p> <p><u>Prelim Study Leave</u><br/>This will take place from: 23.01.23 – 30.01.23</p> |  |  |
| 5  | <p><b>School Captains' Update</b><br/><u>Hallowe'en Hop</u><br/>This was a great success. Pupils from Baldragon who study advanced Higher English and Physics were also invited.</p>   |  |  |
| 6  | <p><b>SQA Appeal</b><br/>100 out of 317 were upgraded. No one was downgraded.</p>  |  |  |
| 7  | <p><b>PE Choices</b><br/>It was raised that there is a concern at the lack of variety. This is driven by the specialism of PE staff. There should however, be more choice and rotation. This is beginning to happen, but B. Millar will take this concern back to the PE Department.</p>   |  |  |
| 8  | <p><b>Strike Action – How is the school best placed to support pupils?</b><br/>Staff are not expected to prepare/plan for this disruption. Please check the schools Twitter for the most up-to-date information.</p>   |  |  |
| 9  | <p><b>Let's Talk Scottish Education</b><br/>Feedback from young people, as well as parents, carers, teachers and others working in education and beyond will play a vital part in shaping the future of Scottish education. B. Millar to facilitate a meeting for parents on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, from 6-8pm to discuss this.</p>  |  |  |
| 10 | <p><b>School Extension</b><br/>The contractors for Harris' school extension will be on site from Monday 19th December. For up to one year, this will mean that the majority of the school car park will not be available to staff, or parents through the school day. This also impacts on evacuation points. B. Millar will keep everyone informed.</p>   |  |  |
| 11 | <p><b>AOB</b><br/><u>Ongoing Parking Issues on Westpark</u><br/>Police Scotland is keeping an eye on this issue.</p>   |  |  |

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|  | <p><u>P7 Open Evening</u><br/>This was a great success, receiving lots of positive feedback.</p> <p><u>8.30am Opening of school doors</u><br/>It was confirmed this is the usual opening time. However, it is very much dependent on having enough staff to manage.</p> <p><u>National Anti-Bullying Week 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November</u><br/>Parents were disappointed this was not highlighted. B. Millar apologised. The main reason being, ongoing staffing issues.</p> <p><u>Westend Social Evening</u><br/>This will be taking place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the Vine.</p> <p><u>Respectful to bus drivers</u><br/>L. Coupar asked if pupils could be reminded to be polite to bus drivers and mindful of their behaviour. B. Millar confirmed the school tries to be proactive and supportive. However, they are finding the bus companies are not very supportive of their bus drivers. The school's intervention is not the solution to this problem. B. Millar reiterated, Bus companies are welcome into the school to discuss this.</p> |  |  |
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**DONM : 17<sup>th</sup> January @ 6.30pm**