

#	Item		Action
		<p>Culloden Academy Parent Council Meeting - virtual 30th November 2020, 7pm</p>	
1	Welcome	<p>Present: Duncan McDonald - Chair Jeni Alexander - Deputy Chair Lisa Thomson - Treasurer Ally Hill - Secretary Catherine Bunn - Committee Member Dr James Vance - CA Head Teacher Trish Robertson - Councillor Ken Gowans - Councillor Carolyn Caddick - Councillor Glynis Sinclair - Councillor Evelyn Gray, Neil Hillyard, Kirsten Petrie, Karen Povey, Pip Sharp, Ellen Crawford, Wendy MacKay, Morven Reid, Karen Daly.</p>	
	Apologies	Yvonne Brechin, Tracey Lambert, Claire Kidger	
2	Previous Minutes	<p>Previous meeting minutes for 21.09.2020 to be amended to represent Catherine Bunn as an ordinary member of the parent council. Approved by Jeni Alexander and Seconded by Lisa Thomson</p>	
3	Headteachers Report	<p>School Calendar - Given announcements from SQA and SG there will inevitably be alterations to the timings of reports and potentially even to the start date for the new timetable. Given the interrelationship of reports, assessments and timetabling- almost the only thing I can say with certainty that will run at that time currently stated are the P7 transition days next June. Mr MacDonald has already been in touch with the primaries and plans his initial visit to talk to P7 teachers and possibly pupils will take place in December. We await Highland Council authorisation to start bringing pupils up for some physical transition and I believe this is under discussion at HQ</p> <p>Parents' Evenings and Reports - S2 reports were issued recently, S4-6 will be out at the end of this week or start of next week and S1 reports should be issued before Christmas- though the potential early closure of schools would mean they are a welcome back gift. Whilst there is a small pilot planned for virtual parents' evenings, more and more schools are taking the same approach as us of going for extra reports and looking at how to best present course choice information to pupils and parents.</p> <p>COVID procedures - Our systems have been tested and Health Protection and Highland Council are confident that we are doing the right things. Could some pupils use the hand sanitiser more yes, do all pupils respect the equipment and materials made available to support them- no. But we deal with these situations and move on. The key message we keep giving is that the national advice to symptoms, to tests and to isolation absolutely applies here and needs to be followed. The weariness that we see in sections of society with limitations on their freedom is definitely felt by pupils.</p>	

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3	Headteachers Report Cont.	<p>Festive joy - Hence the need to give everyone a reason to smile. We will be having the full Christmas dinner experience this year- serving one year at a time to preserve the basic idea of year group bubbles. Christmas jumpers/ hats/ any other appropriate wear will be encouraged on this day. There will be no collection of money but social subjects are running a project to support food banks and pupils can contribute if they wish.</p>	
		<p>Building works - Solar panels all installed and only one significant new leak occasioned by them... so far. Beyond that, I asked for an update last week.</p>	
		<p>SQA - This week we will publish details on how and when we will assess pupils to gather evidence for provisional awards for National 5 candidates since the exam has been cancelled. We also have information about our approaches to Higher and Advanced Higher assessment almost ready to go but given the rumours about the status of the exams we are seeking further clarification before publishing. What I can say is that due the hard work of the PTs and Mr Weafer, we have this in hand, whatever the decision. Once arrangements are confirmed Mr Weafer and I will offer an online meeting like this for people to put their questions about how the process will work.</p>	
		<p>Pupil Wellbeing - Previous survey was carried out in June and was focused on what support pupils wanted- individually or collectively- for coming back to school. Now as we approach the end of the second term back it is time to revisit it and so we will be surveying pupils over the next few weeks about how they are finding school life and what aspects are and are not working for them. In the new year we will survey parents again on a similar theme.</p> <p>Staffing - Two primary teachers now spend one day a week in Culloden working with the English and Maths department to support some S1 pupils to develop their literacy and numeracy skills They are also spending a day in each of the 6 primaries to support the recovery of learning from lockdown. Today was their third visit and early impressions are very favourable.</p> <p>Today is the closing date for 2 temporary extra Guidance posts. You may not know but whereas most schools have a maximum caseload of 200 per Guidance Teacher- and often significantly less- ours are 280 and IRA and Dingwall are similarly challenged. I appreciate that Nicky Grant has found funding for this session but remain hopeful that these may be changed into a permanent position for next session.</p>	
4	Treasurers Report	<p>Lisa Thomson: The Bank Balance as at our last meeting on 21 Sept 2020 was 2333.84. Agreed at that meeting to give CA 2000 for purchase of cloth face masks. Bank Balance as at 30 November 2020, 333.84 pounds. CAPC will be applying for funding from the Highland Council.</p> <p>Dr James Vance thanked CAPC for the funding and has purchase 1500 grey masks with CA logo on it.</p>	
5	Chair's Report	<p>Duncan McDonald: Obviously this year has been turned upside down and normally we would try and hold a few fundraising events, if you have any ideas or suggestions then please let me know.</p>	

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6	AOCB - Culloden Academy Extension	<p>Dr Vance gave an update on the extension. An update was received from Robert Campbell the senior officer, in the Estate Strategy Department in the Highland Council (HC). Corporate resources committee met on 11 November 2020 reported that work was underway for preparing a master plan to establish a long term strategy for the redevelopment of CA campus. This has to be carried out in conjunction with the role planning forecast, this will establish the approach to the initial phase of the extension and refurbishment. A HC committee report is due for full council meeting on 17 December 2020 which will set out requirements for temporary modular accommodation. HC can now accept that they will not have completion by August 2022 for when CA student role becomes unmanageable. The Capital program which was approved in 2018 included 7.5 million for the initial phase at CA. There is ongoing discussion to determine what size of extension does this provide, and whether the temporary modular accommodation part of the same budget. All list of questions were robustly put to Robert Campbell today, he has agreed to have a single item meeting in January 2021. This meeting will be a presentation lead by them as to where they are, timescales etc. Dr Vance was informed about the modular accommodation 27.11.2020. More classrooms and space are desperately required at the school and if the timescales of the permanent build are not on schedule then will accept the modular accommodation.</p>	
		<p>Duncan McDonald asked if CAPC can help with the extension?</p> <p>Dr Vance confirmed that part of the next step in the process is a 'stakeholder group' has to be set up. This group will consist of members from the parent council representation, staff, and pupils which will give full access to the discussions and proposals. Along with continued pressure on the HC at their next general meeting on 17.12.2020 from our councillors to help move this forward.</p>	
		<p>Jeni Alexander: thanked Dr Vance for the update. Feels very disappointed that the Highland Council is not moving this forward faster and that no action has been taken sooner and offered support to Dr Vance.</p>	
		<p>Ken Gowans: very frustrated with this situation and is continually asking questions in the council chamber and no feedback is being given by the officials. Not sustainable for CA to be 160 pupils over role and with all the new houses being building in the area it really needs addressing.</p> <p>KG asked JV if CA offers a holistic form of assessment, where separate units from courses make up a qualification? JV said that this is available and CA can offer this to create a MPA or NQ award. They prefer to offer whole qualifications but it can be suitable for some individuals.</p>	

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6	Culloden Academy Extension Cont	<p>Caroline Caddick: very disappointed that this money was allocated 2 years ago in 2018 and we are still no further from near starting the work on the extension at CA. Concerned that the money for temporary modular accommodation will come from the extension budget, and the HC will use the modulares as an excuse not to build the extension. Keen to get a proper timeline for the project. CA has been over crowded for 30 years, this is not a new problem and if no action is taken in the next month a public campaign should be started.</p>	
		<p>Glynis Sinclair: feels exactly the same as her colleagues, been raising the issue about capacity at CA for a long time particularly with the building of new homes at Culloden West.</p>	
		<p>Trish Robertson: supports her colleagues but poses the question? The problem is do we struggle on for up to 3 years waiting for the permanent extension or accept the temporary modular accommodation at CA in order to get a resolution quicker. We have to think about the children, we can't keep squashing them into the space.</p>	
		<p>Jeni Alexander: if the temporary modular units were to happen in summer 2021 then the procurement of them would have to happen really quickly as demand for goods, wood etc is so high and delayed due to corona-virus so decisions would need to be made fast.</p>	
		<p>James Vance: we also have to take into the timeline consideration the obtaining of correct permits for the temporary modular units and perhaps the change of use of land is also another process which may have to be completed. By August 2022 we will have 1230 pupils in a building built for 900 pupils. If we have the temporary modular units in by summer 2021 I would be happy and surprised.</p>	
		<p>Ken Gowans: asked how the staff are coping a feeling throughout this process? JV, replied that staff, middle managers are all pulling together well and are very self sufficient, strong, supporting each other and coping ok.</p>	
		<p>Glynis Sinclair: feels nervous about accepting the temporary modular accommodation, its not right for the school, the pupils or staff. Money has been allocated for a long time and is there, we need to push hard at the next council meeting.</p>	
		<p>Trish Robertson: agreed with Glynis Sinclair however with the 3 year timescale the pressure on the school currently means we need to have a stop gap to help solve the problem. Its a disgrace that we have waited 4 years and are no further on, the amount of finance which has been spent on the project so far shows that very little actually has been done.</p>	
		<p>Glynis Sinclair: a lot of parents have been waiting years for this extension and its only going to be S1 who will even see any developments, its simply not good enough. Temporary modular units are only a sticking plaster and the money is there and we have to put pressure on that we want this now.</p>	

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	Culloden Academy Extension Cont	<p>Morven Reid: why are you (the councillors) not given the information with regards to spending this money? If the money is there and you are our councillors asking these questions, why do you not have the answers?</p> <p>Caroline Caddick: offices within the council are dealing with different subjects, scrutinizing what is ongoing along with a shortage of money and time, other areas become a priority over us. CC agree with Glynis Sinclair and understand Trish Robertsons concerns. There needs to be the temporary modular accommodation to ease the pressure but not to put them on the land where the new extension is been built</p>	
6		<p>Duncan McDonald asks who has the ultimate decision on the extension?</p> <p>Caroline Caddick, the Chief Executive who runs the HC has the final decision, the officers are there to advise and assist.</p> <p>Jeni Alexander: if you gave 7.5million to private sector they would have it built within a year and a half!</p>	
		<p>Ken Gowans: we have been given so many excuses, its completely unfair that the kids are trying to learn and the teachers are trying to teach in this environment.</p>	
		<p>Catherine Bunn: when is the next general council meeting? Trish Robertson: 17th December 2020</p>	
		<p>Morven Reid: there is a meeting of the Highland Parent Council Forum on 2nd December 2020 and I put forward a question regards when will the build start at CA and is issued to Nicki Grant. If you wish to attend the meeting please let me know.</p>	
6.1	Funding - covid related	<p>Caroline Caddick: each HC ward has specific funds available to purchase covid related items and we still have money remaining if JV applies for it in order to buy more face masks and coverings for students at CA</p> <p>Ken Govans: agreed that they will have money left in their fund, going to send the application to JV to complete and submit and application for funds.</p> <p>Dr Vance thanked the councillors and will submit the application.</p>	
6.2	Masks	<p>Catherine Bunn: for people who do not like to wearing a face mask and alternative might be the neck buff/scarves, popular with boys, economic and also cheap option.</p>	
6.3	Double Blocks	<p>Jeni Alexander: will the double blocks continue in CA for the foreseeable future?</p> <p>JV: a good safety measure for corona-virus, unsure if we will keep it forever but departments are finding that kids are more settled, less corridor time and more time in the classroom for assessments and experiments etc. A staff vote will have to be held in spring 2021 to decide.</p>	

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6.4		<p>Jeni Alexander: if a child is self isolating will work be provided to catch up?</p> <p>JV: work is being provided as much as possible, for the senior students departments have been putting work up online.</p>	
6.5	Student Support	<p>Catherine Bunn: what is being done for the mental health of the students before the Christmas holiday period?</p> <p>JV: we understand the impact the holidays have on kids every year and guidance and additional support is available, it is a difficult time and we try to give kids the skills and tools to best help them through this time of year. CA is applying for a full-time councilor in the school.</p>	
6.6	Antisocial Behavior	<p>Ken Gowans: a point of interest on increase of anti social behavior in teens around our area and in many areas in Inverness. Groups of 10-20 teens gathering. Feels a lot of this has started since corona-virus but is also due to a lack of facilities in the area.</p> <p>JV: Normally receives notification from the police but has not received any report with details of anti social behavior past month.</p> <p>Katherine Bunn: has received police report from PC Adam Boulshire due to her role in Culloden Community Council and they have increased police patrols on mountain bikes in plain clothes in the Culloden area. The police are very aware about the issues in the area and are addressing it.</p>	
		Date of next meeting - 8th February 2021 at 7pm	