

WESTRAY PARENT COUNCIL

Date:	Thursday, 15 th November, 2007
Time:	7.00 p.m.
Venue:	Geography Room, Westray Junior High School
Members Present:	Isla Bain, Andrew Jessett, Jo MacDonald, Angela Muir, Janette Rendall, Cheryl Scott, Graham Maben, Sarah Cable
In Attendance:	Andrew King, Christine Harcus

Jo MacDonald took the chair in the absence of Margaret Hutchison.

1.	Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Hutchison and Elizabeth Drever. (Lorna Brown was absent).	

Election of Chair and Vice Chair	
Jo MacDonald reported that Margaret Hutchison was willing to continue as the Chairperson. The meeting felt that it would be good to keep the continuity. All were in agreement.	
Jo MacDonald was willing to continue as the Vice-Chair. All were in agreement.	
These posts will run for a period of 1 year.	
Jo MacDonald then continued to chair the meeting.	
The four new members were welcomed to the meeting.	

2.	Minutes of the final School Board meeting held on Thursday, 24 th May 2007.
The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 19 th April 2007 were approved by Andrew Jessett, seconded by Angela Muir. Clerk to add Graham Maben's name to the apologies of 24.05.07.	

3.	Matters Arising
It was noted that Loganair were now providing a teacher plane and although the timetable is not ideal, it is considerably better than what might have been.	
It was also noted that Phylis Towrie, a former employee of Loganair, has recently been employed by the Transport Department and is looking at next summer's timetable.	
The teacher plane also improves the inter-isle connections.	

4.	Constitution
It was noted that the constitution has been approved by OIC.	
Regarding Councillors, the Clerk has been advised that all 3 North Isles Councillors are to be invited to the Parent Council meetings if there is a relevant issue. They will then decide which one will attend.	

The constitution now to be made available to the parent forum (all school parents).

Andrew King informed the meeting that this Parent Council was a lot further ahead than many others in the County.

5. 6. Confidentiality / Role of Parent Representatives on Parent Council

The meeting noted that the Westray Parent Council is not allowed to talk about individual children or members of staff. It was also noted that individual members do not have powers, but only as a body.

Members acknowledged that it takes a bit of time to get used to all that goes on within the school.

7. Head Teacher Report

Andrew King circulated his Head Teacher report. The following points were noted:

- The school is delighted with the arrival of Ruth Bowen who is excellent, with lots of experience.
- Louise Harcus has resigned. A post will be advertised in due course.
- The new toilet to the Nursery is a good improvement to the facility. In time there is also to be a door connecting the Nursery to a walled off area outside. Jerry Wood and the S4s to build the wall as part of their vocational course.
- There is to be a new storage space to be built off the hall. The meeting looked at the plan.
- Mr King explained how he would push for new staff to be resident staff, if appropriate. It is important, therefore, that the school has housing available.
- A fire risk assessment which took place in the October holidays has recently impacted on the school e.g. pinboards having to come down. This will also impact on the Community Association.
- It was noted that the school will also be getting 2 bike sheds.
- The meeting noted the review of attainment sheets.
- The Parent Council was also updated on “A Curriculum for Excellence” and asked to retain the 4 capacities. The Parent Council will be invited to attend parts of the February In-service days when the school aims will be looked at.
- Mr King distributed a bid he had put forward for NEET funding. He has been successful in most of the bid and the money will be used for things such as an extra lunchtime supervisor and expertise for the vocational course.
- The School Plan was also distributed. It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the next Parent Council.
- It was noted that all Community Keyholders / Clubs will be expected to undertake Fire Training. Mr King has arranged for training to take place on 8th February. It was noted that when the school fire alarm goes off the healthy

living centre alarm does not go off – but this will be altered soon.

Questions regarding the report:

Andrew Jessett asked if the Parent Council looked at the PIPs results. Mr King to show the Parent Council how well pupils are doing in relation to National Tests.

It was noted that the Parents' Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, 29th November.

It was noted that the post for the additional lunchtime supervisor will be advertised.

8.	Correspondence
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A leaflet about NEET funding was distributed.	
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9.	AOCB
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The Westray Parent Council AGM will take place during the Parents' Information Evening on Thursday, 29 th November. There will be crèche facilities and chocolates and mugs for sale that the vocational course have produced.	
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In time it is hoped to produce a better school website, a part of this website will contain information about the Parent Council.	
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Members to consider the best voting procedures before another election, also to consider whether more information on candidates should be made available – especially for new families.	
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Parent Council involvement during the February In-service days includes: Thursday, 7 th February = School Aims Friday, 8 th February = Child Protection and Fire Training.	
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9.	Date of next meeting
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The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 31 st January, 2008.	
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The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.