

THURSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting 108, Tuesday 23rd September 2025

PRESENT:	Pupil Reps	Teacher Members	In Attendance
Mrs B McKenna Chair	Alan Frame HP	Mr J Lynch	Mrs Flavell, Head Teacher
Ms Z McIntosh	Craig Campbell DHP	Mrs S Struthers	Mrs Nicoll, DHT
Ms D Wood	Fundraising Comm	DYW Co-ordinator	Councillors
	Mr G Mackay	Ms A Nicolson	

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks: Mrs McKenna welcomed everyone present to the 108th Parent Council meeting.

2. Apologies: Mrs D Pottinger, Ms L Stevens, Cllrs M Reiss, R Gunn, S Mackie

3. Approval of 107th Meeting Minutes: 1. Mrs Flavell 2. Ms Z McIntosh

4. Correspondence Received: e.mail re Changes to PVG Scheme introduced by Disclosure Scotland. Duncan Steele, Compliance Officer states ref to possible coverage required by PTA Fundraising Comm at Supermarket Bag Packing stints pre Christmas. Committee Chair Mr Mackay to investigate further.

Correspondence Sent: e.mail to Councillors highlighting changes in requesting their feedback ahead of forthcoming meetings if they are unable to attend.

5. Pupil Representatives' Report: Head Pupil Alan Frame and Depute Head Pupil Craig Campbell attended the Parent Council meeting to provide feedback on their roles for the Session 2025-2026.

Please refer to Attachment 1

6. Head Teacher Report: Mrs Flavell advised Parent Council that the **school roll** stands at 704.

School Building issues Work is nearly complete on the new Reception area and while the new doors are all in place, some of the electrical work is still to be finalised. The new PE modular unit to house the changing rooms, storage and PE Office will be completed over the October holidays.

Staffing The new PE, English and French staff are all settling in really well with all having excellent Faculty support and have been very complimentary on the support the school is giving and on the pupils and their behaviour. Two Primary qualified teachers are also acting as supply.

School Trips The annual S6 trip to the big cities considering universities took place in August with good success and excellent pupil feedback. A trip to Paris is planned in October, with a Snowsports trip S2/3 in January and the S6 trip to Berlin in the February long weekend. Thanks must go to THS pupils who always maintain excellent standards throughout the trips and to the staff who take the time and considerable effort to organise those events.

P7/S1 Transition New S1 pupils have settled in well with Guidance staff in the process of holding meetings with every S1 pupil for an introductory chat to get to know them better.

S3 Junior House Captains are appointed with their team building day at Forss of Nature in Latheron which they all enjoyed with den building, marshmallow toasting and wood whittling among other activities. The House Captains have started to identify projects that they will be working on – i.e. encouraging pupils to join extra-curricular groups they may not have considered and celebrating different cultures and ethnic diversity within the school.

Senior Phase Target Setting and Tracking Seniors have been in discussion with their PSE teacher and subject teachers to decide on target grades for every graded course that they are following. Teachers have also tracked their progress to date and this will go out next Thursday. At the same time teachers and Year Heads are already looking at support for pupils who may need more help to reach their targets.

Research informed CPD THS focus in CPD this term, continuing the overarching theme of inclusion, is how best to support pupils who have lower literacy ability in the classroom by elevating the role of vocabulary, strengthening reading instruction, developing confident writing skills, and connecting literacy instruction to the science of learning. This includes the use of Apps such as Readwrite. There has also been input from the Educational Psychologist on supporting children with Neuro divergence in our classrooms as well as 3 yearly Child Protection updates. The Inset Day on Monday 15th Sept was well used by Faculties, with some visiting other schools to work collaboratively in subject areas.

7. P.T.A. Fundraising Committee Report:

Mr G Mackay, Fundraising Committee Chair advised Parent Council that the first event scheduled for this current session is the Quiz Night which will take place in the Assembly Hall on Friday 7th November starting at 7 pm. Since the last meeting the only funding application sanctioned was towards travel costs for a football trip and currently the account balance stands at just over £4000. Before the next Parent Council meeting in November, Mr Mackay hopes to have confirmation on the issue of PVG cover for the annual Supermarket Bag-packing event pre-Christmas 2025.

8. Developing the Young Workforce Report: *Please refer to Attachment 2*

9. Councillors' Report: While unable to attend, both Cllr M Reiss and Cllr R Gunn submitted e.mail correspondence to Parent Council clerk with reference to the impending new Thurso High School development as follows:

“The Council Leader said a few weeks ago that those pupils now in S1 might see the new school up and open. This is possible as the current buildings are near their end. However – there may be a new Scottish Government next May with different priorities. In May 2027 a new Highland Council will be voted in so there is some uncertainty. Despite these uncertainties the finance for the project should be completely secure as the primary source is 2% additional Council Tax.

“Meeting held on 23rd Sept '25 by Thurso Transformation Deliver Group mainly to bring organisations together to plan the transformation of Thurso and surrounding area. Chair Finlay Campbell and Vice Chair Peter Faccenda identified with a lot of discussion around bringing the public on board in the hope of delivering a public event in November. Specifically on Thurso High School – a Design Team has been appointed to look at a variety of proposals for Point of Delivery Site.”

Action: *Parent Council members seeking further clarification on this issue request an extra meeting with Councillors before their next meeting in November.*

10. Specific Items for discussion:

10.1 Mobile Phone withdrawal: Leading up to the new policy on mobile phone use in the school which is currently planned to start in January 2026, Ms Katya Mackenzie, the lead for the mobile phone working group shared with Parent Council members the Policy Information Leaflet for families along with a mobile phone survey which will be issued to all parents. *Please refer to Attachment 3*

10.2 Parent Council funds: Senior Management are in the process of looking at possible options and awaiting staff feedback in the hope that decisions will have been reached to spend funding amounts by the next Parent Council meeting in November 2025.

A.O.C.B.

11. Parent Council attendance at Parent Meetings:

The proposal was accepted by members that Mrs B McKenna, Parent Council Chairperson, will attend all forthcoming Parent Meetings throughout the current session with a view to alerting parents of the existence of the Parent Council, its purpose and a means of contact with parental concerns.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

NOTES

Chairperson: Mrs Beth McKenna
e.mail: thurso.high@highlandpc.co.uk

Clerk: Mrs Moira Horne
e.mail: mhorne55@outlook.com

Forthcoming Meetings:

11th November 2025; 13th January 2026; 10th March 2026; 12th May 2026

