

THURSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 109 – Tuesday 11th November 2025

PRESENT:	Pupil Rep	Teacher Members	In Attendance
Mrs B McKenna, Chair	Rebecca Henderson	Mr J Lynch	Mrs Flavell Head Teacher
Ms L Stevens	Fundraising Comm	Councillors	Mrs J Miller DHT
	Mr G Mackay	Cllr M Reiss	DYW Co-ordinator
			Ms A Nicholson

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks: Mrs McKenna welcomed everyone present to the 109th Parent Council meeting.

2. Apologies: Ms D Wood, Ms Z McIntosh, Mrs D Pottinger, Mrs S Struthers, Cllr S Mackie & Cllr R Gunn.

3. Approval of Minutes for Meeting 108: 1. Mrs Flavell 2. Mr Mackay

4. Correspondence Sent: 1. e.mail to Councillors requesting extra meeting with Parent Council members to further discussion regarding the proposed new campus at THS.

2. Funding Application response with relevant bank details

Correspondence Received: 1. e.mail to Chair questioning the positioning of security cameras within female pupil toilets – Mrs Flavell explained the matter had been addressed and assured all concerned that while necessary to provide coverage amid consistent damage, the cameras are positioned to view handbasin areas and not individual toilets.

5. S6 House Captain Report: *please see Attachment 1*

6. Head Teacher's Report: Mrs Flavell advised Parent Council that the School Roll stands at 701 which is below the predicted roll of 731.

Staffing: To support Home Economics staff an Auxilliary is due to begin on Monday of next week while a student in English studying at UHI will be with the department for 6 weeks each term this session.

Maintenance: Replacement Games Hall changing rooms and PE Office are in progress and hopefully the end is in sight after past difficulties. New security doors are in place and training will be required before they are functional.

Bus Clinics: CCTV Bus Clinics will be held shortly for school transport pupils. Highland Council's Behaviour Code outlining transported pupils' responsibilities to be both respectful and travel safely will be emphasised along with expectations of behaviour on school transport. With autumn and winter around the corner, this is particularly important for pupils to be aware of. Bad weather and bus evacuation room procedures will also be outlined so pupils are further informed of what happens in a situation where pupils have to be sent home early.

Armistice Day Service: The Last Post was played by 2 pupils, Martha Todd and Charlie Denley-Spencer to mark the start of Armistice Day silence and then the Choir sang before a wreath was laid by Head Pupils and Prefects in the Quad. Senior pupils also attended the town Armistice Day Service representing the school and laid a wreath.

Parent Information Evenings: A Senior Phase and SQA information evening for all parents was well received. A Subject information drop in session is scheduled in January to allow parents to ask questions to Faculty Heads regarding different subjects in Senior Phase.

Area Quality Improvement Manager visit and class observations takes place on Tues 18th November where a whole day of class observations is planned that will be carried out by a group of teaching staff and the AQIM. This will be followed by a feed back gathering session to all the

school to judge where it is on the Quality Improvement scale that ranges from Weak to Excellent. Currently the school evaluates itself as Good which means that all the good things are happening over 75% of the time. To be Very Good this has to be over 90%.

Fashion Swap: Fashion Swap is now open to pupils Monday – Thursday lunch time and after school. Parents are more than welcome to come in and help pupils pick an outfit after school. Pupils can swap or pay £5 for a FULL outfit. There has already been over £30 swaps take place as well as raising over £50. Grateful thanks goes to the PSAs who fully organise and run this.

Social Events: At the end of October S5 & S6 pupils had their Hollowe'en Dance which was organised by the S6 Social Committee. Thanks as always to all the staff who helped make the dance go ahead and run smoothly. The Social Committee are now planning the S5 & S6 Senior Ball along with the S1/S2 and S3/S4 dances.

School Trips: The Paris trip in the October holidays went extremely well with all pupils being highly complimented on their behaviour and enthusiasm by the trip organisers. Plans are in progress for the Ski Trip in January (joint with Wick High School) and the S6 trip to Berlin in the February long weekend.

7. PTA Fundraising Committee Report:

Mr Graham Mackay, Chair reported to Parent Council that since the last meeting the Committee had run another Quiz Night which was hailed a great success with a total of 12 teams taking part which realised the sum of £450 and he wished to express his thanks to all for the support given. The next event on the calendar will be the Supermarket bag-packing in the run up to Christmas and, though not finalised, Mr Mackay thought it would be committee members only who would be participating.

8. Developing the Young Workforce Report: *please see Attachment 2*

Taking part in the S1 Clubs Fair on 6th November, as part of the Caithness Small Bore Rifle Club, Fundraising Committee Chair, Mr Mackay expressed great appreciation at being given the opportunity to do such activities in the school.

Mrs Flavell thought this could be an option to join events during Activities Week in May.

9. Councillors' Report:

As previously reported the lack of information surrounding the proposed Point of Delivery including the proposals for Thurso High School continue to concern Parent Council Members. Though not present, Cllr R Gunn had provided some feedback which Cllr M Reiss clarified as follows: 'The communications group are working on a public statement to inform the public what is planned. NORR Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design & Planning Firm has been approved as the consultants to commission the work. There will be public information sessions on 9th and 10th December venues to be confirmed and public notified. Finlay MacDonald is hoping to attend the next Thurso Community Council meeting on Tuesday 25th November to give an update on the Highland Investment Plan.' Cllr Reiss stated that the plan to have one primary school across the river and another incorporated in the High School seems to be the ultimate proposal.

10. Items for Discussion:

10.1 THS Parent Council Donation

A School Reunion Event which took place recently amassed the sum of £160 which it was decided by the organisers would be presented to the School to be deposited in the Parent Council Account. This has been credited to the account and a 'thank you' e.mail to the organisers has been issued.

10.2 Parent Council Bank Account Funds

Mrs Flavell advised Parent Members that a decision on mutual benefit spending has yet to be finalised for the current session.

10.2 THS Bullying Prevention Policy

On behalf of Mrs Nicoll DHT, Mrs Miller DHT delivered a Power Point presentation of the Bullying Prevention Policy prior to this being presented to parents and pupils alike.

*Please refer to **Attachment 3***

A.O.C.B:

1. Social Studies Parent Teacher Member Mr Lynch intimated to all present that he will do a presentation about the Classical Studies junior phase, N5 and Higher work along with some work he has been doing outside of school in this field.
2. Mrs Flavell also suggested that Faculty Presentations could accompany future Parent Council meetings as a means of giving parent members an insight of the work delivered in each Faculty.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Chair: Mrs Beth McKenna
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Clerk: Mrs Moira Horne
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Future Parent Council Meetings:
13th January 2026, 10th March 2026, 12th May 2026