

Inverurie Academy Parent Council Committee Meeting – Minutes

26th May 2021

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Elizabeth welcomed everyone to the Skype meeting		
Attending/ Apologies	<p><u>Attending:</u> Elizabeth Watt (Chair), Alies Bartelds (Vice-Chair), Simon Glazier (Secretary), Mark Jones (Headteacher), Gregor McIntosh, Charlotte Cottam, Cara Hay, Sheila Cunningham, Gail Winchester, Shona Strachan, Tracey Barclay, Louise Anderson, Linda Barclay, Lyndsay Aspey, Martin Misovic, Fiona Walker, Juliet Serrell, Stuart Laird, Laura Simpson, Ruth Kydd, Leeanne Robertson, Susan Weetman, Scott Campbell (Acting PT Digital Literacy)</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Judy Whyte, Samantha Tribe, Louise Liddell, Sam Grant, Cllr Lesley Berry</p>		
Matters arising from previous Minutes/ Approval	<p>Minutes approved by Ruth Kydd, seconded by Linda Barclay.</p> <p><u>Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Financial Support for school library – Need to wait and see how the libraries are used within the school before committing a cost to this. – Pull-Up Banner – Members of the PC will receive an email asking for ideas to put on the banner and this will be coordinated ahead of the next meeting in September. – Tesco “Bags of Help” Project – Volunteers have stepped forward to coordinate the reporting of the use of this money to Groundworks (the awarding body). 	<p>Include in September’s Meeting Design to be created and banner ordered. Project coordinator – contact point for Academy and Groundworks</p>	<p>Alies & Simon Juliet Ruth</p>
Treasurer Update	<p>Balance: £2,794.93. £1,000 of this is the Groundworks grant (which is ringfenced). £538.92 is due to the school to pay for Treehouse resources previously purchased. £1,256.01 balance remaining.</p>	<p>Include on September meeting agenda</p>	<p>Alies & Simon</p>

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Headteacher Update	<p><u>Update:</u> See information on attached slide pack pdf.</p> <p>Mark expressed his thanks and appreciation to Elizabeth for her service as Chair of the Parent Council.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting Scotland: Chrome Books – Phase 1 – (151 devices) allocated. Phase 2 - (58 devices), delivery imminent. Phase 3 - (86 devices), awaiting confirmation of delivery date. - UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: This will be incorporated into Scots Law and a series of training sessions are planned. This will impact our own Equalities policy; therefore we will review our policies following the training and in light of the new Convention. - Inspection: Learning & Teaching, Curriculum & Attainment were the key themes Education Scotland highlighted for Secondary Schools. Covid has impacted the tracking and feedback on these key topics. Mark highlighted that Inverurie Academy have made significant improvement (for example as highlighted in the league tables). Education Scotland are in a state of flux due to Covid but will respond with the concluding process for the school. - P7 Induction: 2/3rds of Secondary Schools are planning a fully virtual transition with just 1/3rd attempting some in-person transition. As the Academy has no outdoor learning space (until the old Academy School is demolished), most of Inverurie’s transition will be virtual. Most P7s will be given a tour of the Academy in school bubbles in the first week of June. The timetables for S1 will be delivered to primary schools before the end of this term. P7 parents will be offered the tours of the school and will be able to book via Eventbrite. Parent Council to consider how to promote Parent Council to new parents – video clip on Transition page of website; produce a Google form to capture details of potential members; man a stand during the in-person tours event; develop a QR code to display during the event that parents could scan to link to Parent Council area of Academy website. - SQA: The teaching staff have attended training set by the SQA and are fully aware of the moderation process and standards required under the Alternative 	<p>Update at next meeting</p> <p>Parents/carers to be involved in development of Policy.</p> <p>Update on outcome of process at future meeting.</p> <p>Decide how to advertise Parent Council during Transition.</p>	<p>Mark</p> <p>Mark</p> <p>Mark</p> <p>Ruth and Alies</p>

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	<p>Assessment Model. Teachers will ensure students are called into school to complete units of work. Programme of assessments will be completed by 2nd June. Teachers then have 2 days set aside to complete marking, cross-marking and moderation. Provisional grades will be issued by the Academy on 21st June and final approved grades issued by the SQA on 10th August.</p> <p>Response to questions raised -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades awarded will be made upon the balance of evidence considering work submitted during the year plus the results of the assessments. However, this message is not being consistently shared with all students. • Students can sign up for their results to be delivered by the SQA by text message or email. There is a leaflet which provides the information to sign up to the SQA results process. It was suggested that this information should be posted on the Academy website. • Have the school considered undertaking a lessons learned process? Parents should be asked how this period of virtual learning has been for their families so that processes can be strengthened for the future. • Recognition for the teachers was given as they have done a tremendous job not only teaching in person and virtually but also having to mark and assess students work more than usual. <p>– Cost of the School Day: It would be preferable if parents did not have to pay for consumables (a cost applied to practical subjects). However, the school budget cannot afford to cover all these costs and all schools have the same issue. The Re:Uniform Project has also been communicated for the end of this term to encourage reuse of uniform items.</p> <p>– Mentoring: This has not been possible during Covid. Plans are in place to reinstate process as soon as possible – teaching staff mentor S4s; industry representatives’ mentor S5s and S6s and S6s mentor S1s with the intention for this to be expanded to S2s & S3s.</p> <p>– Staffing: Current vacancies are due to increased role and promotions. There are plenty of applicants for all new roles. Staffing has increased from 75 to 82 teachers, with more on the way.</p>	<p>Discuss with Dr Drysdale</p> <p>MySQA information to be posted on Academy website.</p> <p>Issue Survey. Analysis of results to be discussed at next PC meeting.</p> <p>Parent Council training available. Arrange for early next session to create a Plan to minimise impact on parents.</p>	<p>Mark</p> <p>Mark</p> <p>Mark</p> <p>Alies/Simon</p>

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Headteacher Presentation	<p>Celebrating Success: Acknowledging Achievement Refer to the slides (PDF) for more detail. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During Lockdowns it's not been possible to give immediate 'In the corridor' feedback, so Mark is delighted to be able to do that again now the pupils are back. - The Award Ceremony will have to be Virtual again this year, but a bit shorter than last year. This will include the awarding of the Millennium Cup. - House Graduation ceremonies took place last week and each student received a Leavers Certificate. - In terms of new initiatives, Virtual Star, Home Hero and Senior Merits have been introduced this year, the Tapadh Leat group have been sending Cards and Awards, Faculties have been getting onto social media, and the Core Values of the school have been celebrated with reward tokens being handed out to recognise students' positive behaviour. - It is hoped that a full programme of extra-curricular activities will be run at lunchtimes and after school from August. <p>The P7 competition to design the crest for the new House, Thainstone Threshers, attracted 80 entries and was won by Dermot from Hatton of Fintray.</p>		
Changes to the School Day	<p>Changes to the School Day should be within strict guidelines, but these were paused during Covid. The Pause ends this term, so any changes planned to continue/be made for next year, must be within the guidelines. The following changes fall within the guidelines that require teacher (but not parent/carer) consultation.</p> <p>1) School Day: 93% of staff supported the changes. All pupils will start at the same time (08:40) and have a 10-minute registration period. Year groups S1-S3 will have a different morning and lunch break to year groups S4-S6, but all year groups will end the day at the same time. Staggering the break times will assist with the pressure on the dining facilities. Changes will be effective from August and further changes may be considered for 2022/2023.</p> <p>2) No Bells: This has been under trial during Covid. Instances of lateness have reduced between August and December. Many students have learned personal time management. No firm decision has been taken to continue with this process into next</p>	<p>Parents to be informed about changes.</p> <p>Feedback requested on impact of having no bells.</p>	<p>Mark</p> <p>Parent Council</p>

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	<p>term. Generally positive feedback on no longer having bells. Teachers have mixed views, but they are able to make decisions to extend lessons by a few minutes, pushing autonomy back into the classroom. From August, if pupils have PE for their first period, they will need to come into school in uniform and change, but until then they can still come in PE kits for period 1.</p>		
<p>Changes to Campus Accommodation</p>	<p>The Parent Council expressed their thanks to Mr Jones and Mr Anderson for providing them with the opportunity to go on a Tour of the Campus last month.</p> <p>The school is designed in an open plan format. Teachers have commented that the design seems to work, and sound does not travel far. Other teachers, and some pupils do find it distracting, but many of the younger pupils have been 'brought up' in open plan primary schools so are accustomed to learning in an open plan environment. It is also the case that the new building is as much a Community Campus as it is a School and needs to work for all users.</p> <p>Cameras in corridors/stairwells are still being requested by Mark. This is to protect the Private Space of the school when members of the community use the building during the school day.</p> <p>There is still no timeframe for the completion of the demolition of the old building. Some materials have been found that have slowed down the process but once the former Technical block comes down, a wider access will be developed for the current car park and more parking spaces will be created on the footprint of the former building.</p> <p>NESCOL: The Academy have been asked to provide space for North East Scotland College within the Campus, which used to be based at Crichton Cottage on the Academy grounds. From August, they will be using rooms in an Invited Space within the Campus, with access from the Jackson Street entrance, but these users will not be given free access to the wider school or St Andrews. This is likely to be a two-year agreement, because by then, the school might be reaching capacity and these spaces will need to be repurposed for the school. Arrangements will be reviewed then.</p> <p>Kellands School: Kellands is being refurbished and the Academy was advised that 5 classes would move into the building for 2 weeks in June. They will remain in their own bubble and will begin and their day at Kellands and they will have their lunch there too. The school have prepared for this, again using the Invited Space to limit</p>		

