

Inverurie Academy Parent Council Committee Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday 16th April 2019

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Elizabeth welcomed everyone along to the meeting.		
Attending/ Apologies	<u>Attending</u> : Elizabeth Watt, Shona Strachan, Sam Grant, Valerie Napier, Emma West, Stuart Laird, Sam Tribe, Murray Reid, Mark Jones (HT), Alan Johnston (DHT), Craig Paterson (DHT), Scott Campbell (Teacher), Cllr Ewenson, Cllr Berry. <u>Apologies</u> : Alies Bartelds, Anne Hitchcox, Sheila Cunningham, Kay Diack, Juliet Serrell, Cllr Baillie, Cllr Whyte.		
Matters Arising from Previous Minutes/ Approval	Actions from last Meeting addressed under other Agenda items. Proposed: Sam Grant Seconded: Valerie Napier		
Treasurer Update	Balance – £1,954.32. £922 raised from the Quiz Evening – total sum donated to school to support provision of mental health support. Remaining balance - £1,954.68 – Suggestion that the School Council could be consulted for their ideas on what this money could be spent on. This is going to be a question in the School Captain selection process.	School Council to be asked for their opinions and School Captains to report to a future Parent Council meeting.	Leadership Team to include this question in the Selection Process for next School Captains.
Head Teacher Update and Presentation	HT Update and Presentation included in attached slides. Summary of points discussed: <u>Staffing</u> : Recruitment policy is to keep ahead of the curve and not just to fill vacancies. The School Roll is increasing, so recruitment increasing to match this increase in student numbers. <u>TED Talks</u> : Programme of Community and Careers talks will be confirmed at	Share programme of	Mr Jones

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	<p>next Committee Meeting in June. Likely to be run during lunchtimes on Tuesdays.</p> <p><u>Parental Engagement and Improvement Plan:</u> Plans are in place for session 19/20 to offer parents/carers the opportunity to experience how lessons are taught so that they are in turn better equipped to support their young person at home. “Learning at Home”, “School-Home Communication” in addition to “Learning and Teaching”, “Attainment” and the “Curriculum” are areas of focus for the Improvement Plan. 99.3% of students went onto “Positive Destinations” at the end of 2017/2018 academic year. Good relationship with “Skills Development Scotland”. Measured confidence that “Attainment” should be higher overall and next academic year, there will be a focus upon 20% lowest attaining students, not less able but lower achieving. Recruitment of Attendance Officer has had a positive impact.</p> <p><u>STEM Subject analysis:</u> More girls study than boys, Chemistry is equally split between girls and boys and only 28% of girls study Physics. These figures are representative of Scottish results. Education Scotland has published a paper on “Removing Barriers to Choosing STEM Subjects” recognising that this is a National issue.</p> <p><u>MCR Pathways:</u> Co-ordinator grateful to Parent Council for publicising scheme. 14 mentor/mentee matches – most of Aberdeenshire schools involved in Scheme. Students work with the Mentor to develop strategies to gain the most from their potential.</p> <p><u>Consultation on School Term Dates:</u> Ends on 6th May – <u>consultation on 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 term dates</u> .</p> <p><u>Emergency School Bags:</u> These will be available for students who require this assistance.</p>	<p>talks at next meeting.</p> <p>Plans for initial session to be shared with Parents</p>	<p>Mr Jones</p>

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	<p>Main topic – “Community Campus – Update on build and involvement of school community”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Robertsons is that the build is on track ready for students to move into after Easter. Alan Johnston (DHT) meets up with Robertsons every fortnight. He has also visited schools that have undergone a similar transformation to discuss how the Community interface works. Students have been involved through “Robertson Reporters” and Work Experience opportunities. Main external shell almost complete and decisions have been taken on internal colours. Each floor will be colour coded based upon the Academy’s main colours and walls will be neutral with splashes of colour on locker doors etc. Library space is being reconsidered and may be moved back to a central location rather than being split between the floors. Robertsons are planning to offer tours of the site to members of the local community on a Saturday in June. The School’s Leadership Team are developing plans to mark/celebrate the move from the current school building to the new Community Campus. 	<p>Date for site tour to be publicised on school’s website.</p> <p>Plans to be publicised on school’s website.</p>	<p>Mr Johnston</p> <p>Mr Jones</p>
<p>Tracking and Monitoring</p>	<p>Presentation included in attached slides.</p> <p>Summary of points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was identified as a priority area for improvement by the Inspectors. Craig Paterson explained the background to the proposal to change the style of documentation used to report students’ progress to parents. Currently Tracking Reports not readily understood but are quick to complete for teachers while Full Reports take longer to complete but could tend to be generic and not specific. Proposal to introduce an enhanced version of the Tracking Reports for S1 – S3 perhaps twice a year and an enhanced Tracking Report and a Full Report for S4 – S6. Additionally, consideration being given to offering parents more than one opportunity a year to meet with subject teachers. System change could deliver benefits of earlier interventions; time gained from not writing Full Reports invested 		

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	<p>in Improvement Plan work; allocation of “working” and “target” grades being reviewed and students will be given the opportunity to review their own progress against targets they have set and allocate their own Grades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three options were discussed for changing the Tracking and Reporting style and we were invited to provide our opinions on the advantages and disadvantages for each from our perspective. 	<p>Any further thoughts on proposals to be submitted directly to Craig.</p>	<p>Parent Council</p>
<p>School Uniform</p>	<p>The new uniform has created a unified look for students representing the Academy and it has received positive comments from students, parents/carers and members of the local community. However, there is no guidance in the Uniform Expectations regarding the style of skirt that should be worn as part of the new Academy uniform as there is for the style of trousers. The Uniform Group is to be asked to consider this issue. If any student does wear inappropriate items of uniform, the Guidance teachers may intervene and ask the student to comply with the Academy’s Uniform Expectations.</p>	<p>The Uniform Group to consider devising guidance for students on the style of uniform skirt.</p>	<p>Mr Paterson</p>
<p>Equalities Policy</p>	<p>Presentation included in attached slides. Summary of points discussed: Following a survey of students’ opinions about how they feel in school, 1 in 10 of them said that they didn’t feel safe. “Anti-Bullying” and “Equalities” different sides of the same coin. Aim is reinforce a culture of respect in school, reflecting one of the Academy’s main core values. This is as true for face-to-face communication as it is for on-line. All incidents of bullying or discriminatory behaviour will be treated seriously. Students are reluctant to report incidents to prevent issue progressing and they have to be reassured through the development of this Policy that they should report all incidents that they experience or that they witness happening to someone else. The Policy is designed to be both preventative and curative. It has been developed in consultation with students, staff and members of the Parent Forum.</p>	<p>Draft Policy to be posted on school website. Comments on draft to be submitted directly to Mr Johnson.</p>	<p>Mr Johnston Parent Council</p>

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Fundraising Update	Deferred for discussion at next meeting		
Parent Forum Involvement	Deferred for discussion at next meeting		
AOCB	As meeting ran over time we were unable to ask for any items for next meeting.		
Date of next meeting	<p>Wednesday 5th June 2019- Hut 2 - 6.30pm</p> <p>Head Teacher presentation topic – <u>“Learning and Teaching: sharing students’ progress and milestones with parents”</u>.</p>	<p>Request items for Agenda two weeks before meeting</p> <p>Reminder issued on Facebook page and Twitter</p>	<p>Shona</p> <p>Sheila/ Samantha</p>