

Inverurie Academy Parent Council Committee Meeting – Minutes

Thursday 12th September 2019

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Elizabeth welcomed everyone along to the meeting		
Attending/ Apologies	<p><u>Attending:</u> Louise Anderson, Lyndsay Aspey, Alies Bartelds, Sheila Cunningham, Amelia Davis, Cara Hay, Martin Misovic, Leeanne Robertson, Juliet Serrell, Shona Strachan, Emma Stephenson, Samantha Tribe, Elizabeth Watt, Gail Winchester Mark Jones (HT), Scott Campbell (Teacher) Josh MacRae and Louise Ross(School Captains) Cllr Neil Baillie and Cllr Marian Ewenson</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Michelle Charles, Deborah Collinson, Kay Diack, Sam Grant, Louise Liddell, Valerie Napier, Emma West Cllr Lesley Berry, Cllr Judy Whyte</p>		
Matters arising from previous Minutes/ Approval	<p>Proposed: Samantha Tribe</p> <p>Seconded: Shona Strachan</p> <p><u>Updates -</u></p> <p><u>Defibrillator</u> – As Aberdeenshire Council does not directly supply defibrillators as a matter of course at its buildings, although this policy is under regular review, the Parent Council is considering fundraising to install one at the Community Campus. Councillor Neil Baillie has provided contact details for an organisation that may be able to help us to fundraise.</p> <p><u>Tesco Bags of Help</u> – Not heard if we have been selected yet – keep your fingers</p>	Parent Council to find out more about the fundraising possibilities to provide a defibrillator.	Elizabeth

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	<p>crossed!</p> <p><u>Tesco Centenary Grant Scheme</u> – The PC were not entitled to apply for this scheme as is designed to support Projects that would have an impact across the whole Community.</p> <p><u>Parental Engagement</u> – It would be good to try to gather views from parents who aren't able to come along to Parent Council meetings, so members of the Parent Council are going to attend Parents' Nights throughout the year to gather their views on what we could do on their behalf.</p> <p><u>Quiz</u> – The Kintore Arms Hotel and the Quizmaster have been booked for our second Quiz fundraising evening on Friday 28th February 2020.</p> <p>Other actions from will be addressed under other Agenda items.</p>	<p>Attend all Parents' Evenings.</p> <p>Put in place all arrangements.</p>	<p>Parent Council members.</p> <p>Parent Council members.</p>
<p>Headteacher Update and Presentation</p>	<p>HT Update and Presentation included in attached slides.</p> <p>Summary of points discussed:</p> <p><u>Inspection</u> – This began in June 2018 and will recommence in the first week of December. The main strands of Improvement for the Academy were identified as "Attainment, Learning and Teaching and Curriculum". A Survey will be issued to Parents and Focus Groups will be held to gather views from as many people as possible. The visit will take 2-4 days and the Report will be shared with everyone. Academy aims to be "Good" or better in all measures by 2020.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> – Fully staffed apart from a vacancy in Business and IT (live advert). Continually accepting new enrolments so have to keep attracting staff to keep "ahead of the curve". Kinellar parents being consulted on changes to zoning</p>	<p>Respond to Parent Survey or participate in Focus Groups.</p>	<p>All members of the Parent Forum.</p>

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	<p>meaning they may have the option to attend either Inverurie or Kemnay Academy.</p> <p><u>Community Learning Calendar</u> – “Learning and Teaching” will be the topic of the first event on 28th November and will provide parents with an overview of 5-6 different courses over a 1.5 hour period. Book through Eventbrite.</p> <p><u>Programme of Lunchtime Talks</u> – Available for everyone in the Community to attend on Tuesday lunchtimes. Programme advertised on school website.</p> <p><u>Google Classroom Pilot</u> – Inverurie Academy is a Pilot school for this Project and if adopted, it will replace “Show My Homework”. 3-4 teachers from different faculties will be involved initially covering several subjects. The system will generate daily alerts to show that homework has been issued, provide some detail on the assignments set and the grade given for completed tasks.</p> <p><u>Equalities Policy</u> – This is now the responsibility of Mr Anderson and will take the majority of the year to develop.</p> <p>Presentation Topic - “Attainment – Evaluating student performance in the last SQA exams”</p> <p>Mr Jones explained that the Inverurie Academy offers an ambitious and inclusive curriculum. He made some observations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifications obtained in S3 don’t count towards the Academy’s attainment figures. • S6’s mentor S1 students in the language of skills – “Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Leadership, Problem Solving and Resilience”. 	<p>Seek views of Parent Council.</p>	<p>Mr Anderson</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring – S6’s enjoyed being mentored by staff more than by industry representatives. • Tracking and Monitoring for S1 – S3 – more than 75% have achieved level 3 by the end of S2. • 18-month experience of National 5 courses justified by the improvement in results. • Positive Destinations – 99.3% of leavers move straight from school to work, further education or a training programme. • S4 – 5 passes or more at National 5 – above average for Aberdeenshire. • Considering offering National Progression Awards to S3 and S4 students. • Recognition that more than 60% of leavers choose alternative Positive Destinations to University. More work required to communicate to parents how they can support their child/ren to make the choice that is the best for them. Choices Marketplace will be held in February – students will attend during the day and parents/carers in the evening. • Awareness raising required to assist Businesses to understand the value of National 4 and National Progress Award qualifications. • S5 – 3 or more Higher passes – in line with Aberdeenshire average. Academy to consider why so many students attained level “D” passes. Is it a good idea to remove the “study” periods in S5 perhaps not good preparation for Further Education? • S6 – slight dip in results achieved – below Aberdeenshire average. Academy will be encouraging students to consider the reasons for remaining to study in S6 to make the best of all experiences offered. 		

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Parent Council support of “Spark” training	The Parent Council had asked for a question to be included in the School Captain interviews in June as we wanted to know how they would use a £500 donation from the Parent Council to support all Academy students. The common theme of their responses was that they felt that the teachers didn’t fully appreciate “the stresses experienced by students”. To address this issue, training was delivered by “The Spark” – specialists in relationship counselling.	Impact of this training to be explained at next Parent Council meeting. Parent Council members to cast their votes.	Mr Jones Parent Council members
Community Campus	<p><u>Open Doors Day – Community Campus</u> – taking place on Saturday 12th October and open to all members of the Community. There will be several sessions held during the morning. Advance booking required to ensure sufficient safety equipment is available for everyone.</p> <p><u>Celebrating Inverurie Academy</u> –fundraising Dinner and Dance is being held at the Thainstone Exchange on Saturday 8th February 2020. S6 students will be conducting tours of the current building on this date too. Inverurie Heritage centre is working with the Academy to ensure that items of interest from the current school are retained.</p>	School to keep parents informed of both events.	Mr Jones
AOB	Question asked about what members of the public should do if they witness acts of vandalism taking place to school property. If witnessed, the advice is to contact the Police.		
Date of Next Meeting	<p><u>Committee Meeting – Wednesday 27th November - 6.30pm – Hut 2</u></p> <p>Head Teacher presentation topic – <u>“Learning and Teaching: Systems used to share students’ progress with parents/carers”</u>.</p>		