

Inverurie Academy Parent Council Committee Meeting – Minutes

9th September 2021

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Alies welcomed every to the Team meeting, which followed the AGM.		
Attending/ Apologies	<p><u>Attending:</u> Alies Bartelds (Chair), Simon Glazier (Secretary), Juliet Serrell (Treasurer), Mark Jones (Headteacher), Dawn Lynch (Depute Head), Shona Lees, Linda Barclay, Joanne Taylor, Louise Anderson, Jill Glennie, Gail Winchester, Joanne Taylor, Leanne Robertson, Laura Simpson, Sharlene Burnett, Cara Hay, Ruth Kydd, Emma West, Lyndsay Aspey, Nicola Dowds, Zara Coutts, Tracey Barclay, Mrs Lorimer, Gregor McIntosh, Shona Strachan, Cllr Judy Whyte, Martin Misovic, Cllr Marion Ewenson</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Louise Liddell, Sam Grant, Frances Swanston, Cllr Lesley Berry</p>		
Matters arising from previous Minutes/ Approval	<p>Minutes from 26th May approved by Alies Bartelds, seconded by Juliet Serrell.</p> <p><u>Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Some of the funding we have received (Tesco Bags of Help - £1,000) needs to be spent on a project, to support Mental Health and wellbeing, within the award deadline. Mark proposed a ‘Mindset’ course in partnership with the Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust. The cost will be met by the school, but we can opt to support a project to ‘Train a Trainer’. A member of staff can be trained up to continue the programme into future years. The cost of this would be £2,000. The parent council approved £1,500 to help fund this, and should we receive additional funding we would consider increasing this amount (e.g. from the Co-Op Community fund). 	Emma to liaise with Mark re payment of this amount. Ruth to submit award report to Tesco Bags of Help to verify what the money was spent on.	Emma, Mark & Ruth.
Treasurer Update	<p>Current balance: £2,255.81.</p> <p>Tree of Knowledge has been paid for.</p>		

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Headteacher Update	<p><u>Update:</u> See information on attached slide pack pdf. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting Scotland: All 3 Tranches of technology (Chromebooks) have now been received. The latest tranche are being set up, ready for distribution. - Re:Uniform: Collections took place in June, and the ten free blazers that we were offered from the suppliers have been ordered. Spare blazers are also available to borrow from the School Office. - Cost of the School Day: Scottish Government recently announced that they want to cover all course consumable costs. We hope this money will come in due course. - School Day Changes: Silent school (no bells) and staggered breaks/lunch have been maintained with success into the new term. This has eased congestion significantly, but the staggered lunch does mean that some lunch groups cannot cover all year groups anymore. - Improvement Plan: Link is available in the attached Headteachers report. An accessible video version is in the process of being created. - Staffing: The increasing school role means that there are two roles (Maths & Science) being advertised. This is maintaining staffing, not a deficit being filled. Inverurie Academy are fairing better than many schools in this respect. - Equalities Policy: Work continues to prepare the new Equalities Policy in line with the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, to ensure it is future proofed. - Parent Evenings: An online booking system for virtual meetings (at least until January 2022) is being introduced. Parents can then book 5-minute slots through the system, which also integrates into the video meetings themselves. - Campus Progress Report: Some of the old building has now been demolished, widening access to the new campus. The remaining demolition, and installation of all weather pitches and additional parking, is being accelerated. See the attached report for full details. - Strengthening Families: A 4-week programme to be run, in-person, for P6 – S2 students and their parents/carers (as separate sessions). Limited spaces in each session, but on offer after the October holidays. 	<p>Update at next meeting</p>	<p>Mark</p>

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<p>Attainment: Evaluating student performance in the last SQA exams</p>	<p>1) HT presentation: Mark summarised attainment in the 2020-21 session, which was very positive. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2019/20 was the year when exams were removed, followed by an algorithm to adjust results (later removed). The school have been advised that this year should be ignored for comparison purposes. - 2020/21 there were again no exams. - Key improvement seen in S4s achieving Nat5s over the past few years. - For S5s, considerable improvement in the percentage achieving Level 6 (Higher equivalent) qualifications over the past 4 years. - S6s are targeted against Level 7 qualifications (Advanced Highers), although many sit Level 5 and 6. Steady progress of those achieving at least one Level 7 pass. - Only 8 pupils indicated that they might want to appeal their results, but after discussion none of them took it through to appeal. <p>Some of this improvement is due to the increase in courses being offered by the school. This has made the biggest difference to the S5 courses.</p>		
<p>Mentoring</p>	<p>Dawn Lynch & Shona Lees presented.</p> <p>MCR Pathways was piloted in 2105/16 to support vulnerable young people within the school, and then expanded in Summer 2018 when Shona took on a secondment to lead the programme.</p> <p>Group sessions and community mentoring has made a huge difference. But not all the elements of the programme have been available, and as MCR Pathways has grown it has felt less suitable for the Inverurie students.</p> <p>At the opportunity to renew the contract, the Academy felt that a more bespoke programme was preferable going forward. A consultation with parents/carers and young people is ongoing, and discussion with Government approved organisation Columba 1400 has presented some exciting opportunities. This will include young people supporting other young people.</p> <p>Several of the senior leadership team at the academy have already been through the Columba 1400 Headteacher Leadership Academy, with transformational outcomes.</p>		

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AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What provision for young people who are isolating will be made going forward? Mark recognised that this was a challenge for all schools. Teachers have contracts that limit how much work they can do, meaning that full in-person delivery and full virtual delivery is not possible. The aim is to ensure that as much course work is available on Google Classroom/MS Teams, and where not possible that a pack would be made available in advance for periods of self-isolation. 	Mark to follow up and update at next meeting.	Mark
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 23rd November 2020, 6.30-8.30pm</p> <p>Venue: Assume via MS Teams.</p> <p>Head teacher topic: 'Learning and teaching: Systems used to share students' progress with parents/carers'</p>		