

## Inverurie Academy Parent Council Committee Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
<b>Welcome</b>	Alies welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting following the AGM.		
<b>Attending/ Apologies</b>	<p><u>Attending:</u> Alies Bartelds (Chair), Simon Glazier (Secretary), Neil Hendry (Headteacher), Leanne Robertson, Habibul Shakhi, Louise Anderson, Stuart Laird, Juliet Serrell, Lyndsay Aspey, Tracey Barclay, Fiona Walker, Ruth Kydd, Fiona Walker, Lynda Ansell, Charlotte Bathgate, Jenny Gordon</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Sheila Cunningham, Cara Hay, Linda Barclay, Carol-Ann Lorimer, Karen Simpson, Frances Swanston, Elaine Bourke, Joanne Taylor</p>		
<b>Matters arising from previous Minutes/ Approval</b>	<p>Minutes approved by Alies Bartelds, seconded by Juliet Serrell.</p> <p><u>Updates:</u> – The new PC Banner was up in the entrance to the Community Campus building.</p>	Include activity in November agenda	Alies
<b>Treasurer Update</b>	<p>Balance: £1,170.37. For more detail see the AGM Minutes.</p> <p>Comments on Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Easy Fundraising – More members have started using this to raise funds. Three people using it for one year have raised over £100, so this could be a means of raising a lot more for the PC.</li> </ul>	Include on November agenda	Juliet
<b>Headteacher Update</b>	<p><u>Update:</u> See information on attached slide pack pdf.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Staffing:</b> Generally, the school is in a pretty good place. Three vacancies were open. A maths teacher has been appointed just today (and a very competent and experienced appointment), having taken 18 months to fill this role.</li> </ul>	Update at next meeting	Neil

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	<p>Modern Languages - a returning teacher has recently been appointed who starts next week.</p> <p>Technical Vocational Education (TVE) has been advertised four times now, but there have been no applicants yet. Neil is hopeful that a candidate may be found from the international teachers who start arriving in the UK in September and October. Appointments have been made in English, two Acting Depute Head roles and one as Principal Teacher Pupil Development (a new post).</p> <p>Two roles are currently being advertised, one Depute Head (interviews next week, 5 candidates, all external) and one Acting Depute Head for maternity cover.</p> <p>– <b>Key Dates:</b></p> <p>This year the S4s will not have time off for their Assessment Week (old prelims). They will be released from lessons to sit their assessments but will otherwise be in school. S5/S6 will be given time off for their assessments.</p> <p>The Christmas Concert is on a Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (so that it doesn't clash with local Pantomimes, which many of the young people are also involved in).</p>	<p>Neil to upload key dates to the PC page on the website.</p>	
<p><b>SQA attainment</b></p>	<p><b>HT presentation: Evaluating Student Performance in last SQA Exams</b></p> <p>Neil commented that the exam results were very pleasing, but that he couldn't take much credit for it!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– At Level 5 the school performed well in those achieving 5 or more grades A-D and outperformed the average Aberdeenshire results significantly.</li> <li>– At Level 6 the results were also up from last year for those achieving 3 or more grades A-D.</li> <li>– Neil commented that the gradings which had been given by Inverurie teachers during the pandemic when no exams were sat were very accurate.</li> <li>– Overall, this has meant that the school has moved 7 spaces up the national league table, putting us into the top 100 out of 450+ schools in Scotland.</li> <li>– At Level 5, the school had 961 entries sat in 2019, increasing to 1,274 this year. This shows that more pupils are undertaking level 5 qualifications which has to be the continued aspiration for pupil, with many faculties experiencing very strong results. The school sits above the Aberdeenshire averages in every measure.</li> <li>– 3 sets of results were priority appealed, successfully, for pupils awaiting University places, who have now achieved these. 71 priority two appeals have been</li> </ul>		

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	submitted (which is a high number give the school roll). Neil is confident of a positive outcome to many of these appeals, which will further increase the performance figures.		
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-run of SAMH Mental Health Workshops Beth Rose from SAMH completed some workshops before the summer. A number of people were unable to attend due to timing, but the feedback was good from those who were able to attend – so these are going to be repeated.</li> <li>- Communication of weekly school lunch options A parent asked if the school could put out the menu in advance to help them support young people make good food decisions. This is not done anywhere in Aberdeenshire, but some schools make this information available to new S1s, and Neil will do this for next year’s intake.</li> <li>- S1 language options Inverurie Academy had previously offered both French and German as foreign language for S1 &amp; S2, but it didn’t work well for pupils getting a sufficient grounding in both subjects. At present, Inverurie Academy has focussed on French &amp; German, due to staffing availability. University degrees are now limited to just one language, so a teacher cannot teach two languages in the senior phase anymore. The decision has been to offer French <u>or</u> German in S1 &amp; S2 and add a second language in S3 for those who have the ability. This system seems to give better outcomes for pupils when it comes to exam time. Both established German teachers have now left, but there is a teacher who can teach French and Spanish.</li> <li>- Connect (who support the Parent Councils in their role) are seeking feedback from parents/carers about examinations, so please consider completing their survey.</li> <li>- Deputy Head interviews are happening next week, and members of the Parent Council can input any questions they have for candidates, or comments on the qualities sought after in candidates.</li> </ul>	Neil to arrange for P7s moving into S1 to be given advance notice of school meal options.	
<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b>	<p>Alies commented that during Covid, the number of parents/carers who were able to attend PC meetings online was higher than those who had previously attended in person. The decision was made to alternate between in-person and online meetings for the year ahead.</p> <p>The following dates have been set with Head Teacher presentation topics noted: -</p>	Send invites for these in advance.	Neil/Alies

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	<p><b>Thursday 24 November 2022</b> – Tracking, monitoring and reporting (via Teams)  <b>Monday 23 January 2023</b> – HT Presentation subject to be confirmed (ICC)  <b>Tuesday 21 March 2023</b> – Self-evaluation for self-improvement (via Teams)  <b>Wednesday 24 May 2023</b> – Celebrating success: acknowledging achievement (ICC)</p> <p>Venue: Inverurie Community Campus (ICC) or MS Teams.  Time: 6.30-8.30pm for Teams &amp; 7:00-9:00pm for in person meetings.</p>		