**Inverurie Academy Parent Council Meeting – Minutes**

**19th January 2022**

| **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTIONS** | **RESPONSIBLE** |
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| **Welcome** | Alies welcomed everyone to the Teams meeting. |  |  |
| **Attending/**  **Apologies** | Attending: Alies Bartelds (Chair), Alasdair O’Connor (Acting Head), Cllr Judy Whyte, Cllr Marion Ewenson, Shona Strachan, Charlotte Bathgate, Joanne Taylor, Louise Anderson, Karen Simpson, Louise Anderson, Martin Misovic, Sheila Cunningham, Simon Glazier (Secretary), Laura O’Connor, Laura Simpson, Linda Barclay, Lyndsay Aspey, Ruth Kydd, Fiona Walker,  Apologies: Gail Winchester, Zara Coutts, Karen Niall, Cllr Berry, Jill Glennie, Leanne Robertson, Stuart Gregg, Francis Swanston, Tracey Barclay, Juliet Serrell (Treasurer) |  |  |
| **Matters arising from previous Minutes/**  **Approval** | Alies thanked Alasdair O’Connor for taking on the role of Acting Head for the school until Neil Hendry takes over on 15th February.  Minutes of the 23rd November special meeting to discuss the recruitment of the new headteacher role approved by Simon Glazier, seconded by Sheila Cunningham.  Minutes of the 7th December meeting Parent Council meeting approved by Alies Bartelds, seconded by Martin Misovic.  Updates:   * Groundworks money was put towards the Mind Set Programme (see below) * We were not successful with the Co-op Community Funds. * Easy Fundraising – No income has been received from Easy Fundraising. Either this is because no-one has used it, or they have the wrong bank details. We know that some funds have been raised so will wait for these funds and chase if nothing is received. Sheila Cunningham thinks that her email address might be associated with the account. Alies encouraged PC members to use it if possible. | Include matters arising from this meeting in March agenda | Alies/Simon |
| **Vice Chair Vacancy** | No nominations for Vice Chair were put forward at the start of the academic year. Alies put an invitation out to members. Sheila Cunningham put her name forward and was approved as Vice Chair. |  |  |
| **Treasurer Update** | Juliet Serrell was not able to attend the meeting but provided a Treasure’s report in advance. The current bank balance is £755.81. Additional funds will be received from the Council which will take our balance to over £1,200. Funds are therefore available to support school needs. No expenditure is planned in the near future. |  |  |
| **Headteacher Update** | Update: See information on attached slide pack pdf. Key points:   * ***Staffing:*** Vacancies in 5 departments, but overall, the staff team are doing very well. Covid isolation protocols have caused significant shortage recently. Alasdair is confident that these roles will be filled with quality people. Dawn Lynch will be leaving soon after 9 years at the school, so a new Depute Head position is coming up. Neil Hendry, new headteacher, will be starting on 15th February. * ***Inspection:*** The inspection process has finally been completed. The Inspector’s report included lots of praise for the progress the school has made and especially during the pandemic. Attainment has improved across a variety of measures, from being below the ‘Virtual Comparator’ to now being above it in some areas. There will therefore be no further inspection visits in this round. * ***Improvement Plan:*** Developing student leadership is a priority taken from the Inspection report. The senior leadership team have a 15 point Improvement Plan and progress continues to be made on this, even during the Headteacher transition. Alasdair gave an overview of key progress points (refer to Headteacher slides). Alasdair explained how ‘Promoting positive relationships’ is a pro-active approach to create a better future, rather than to resolve any existing issues within the school.   A parent member sought, and gained clarification, from Alasdair how both the inspection Virtual Comparator, and the Differentiation improvement plan was both for the practical subjects as well as vocational subjects. | Alasdair to forward Headteacher slides for distribution/upload. | Alasdair |
| **Communication** | 1. **Mind Set project:**   Laura O’Connor presented the Mindset Programme, a mental health programme in partnership with the Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust update. The AFC Trust are working with S2s, who had a difficult transition due to Covid. Every S2 will experience 12 weeks of the programme. Feedback from the pupils has been very positive ‘how to do life better than I’ve been doing it’. The PC have provided funding for the ‘Train the Trainer’ programme, allowing teachers to become trainers in the Mind Set programme. Staff are enjoying the programme and more have been keen to be trained up in it. This will give the opportunity for future year groups to experience the programme, or to work with smaller groups of pupils, without having to pay AFC Trust every time.  **2) Subject Choice & Timetabling:** Using a ‘Column’ structure vs a ‘Free Choice’ structure has both advantages and disadvantages. Often a combination is required to get the best outcome for the most students. Inverurie Academy are using the Colum Structure mainly to get some of the disappointment out of the way early for subjects that can’t be combined. But doing this too long means the school loses an understanding of what student demand is. This year the S2s were asked to select their favourite subjects, which led to high demand for, and therefore a role being opened for, a woodwork teacher. This increases capacity which can be added to the Column Structure.  Alasdair provided some key dates for S2s to make subject choices and commented that parents would be able to join a short conversation with the guidance teacher and student online (using the Parents Evening Booking System again). Information will be available under the Curriculum Tab on the website and then Options. | Laura O’Connor is to check if S2 students will be getting a full report this year, as they didn’t get one in their first year. | Laura O |
| **AOB** | * **Pull Up Banner –** Alies shared an example of the banner, created by Juliet, for the Parent Council to raise its profile within the school and at events/activities. A QR code plus a Word Cloud image were the key elements of the design. The cost would be £70+VAT for a standard grade (temporary use) banner, or £105+VAT for a sturdier banner. A discussion was had about whether this could be put up in the school somewhere on a semi-permanent basis, not just during events. Also distributing this information via social media and email or to P7 parents in transition packs. | Alies to work with Juliet and the school to investigate possibilities | Alies |
| **Date of Next Meeting** | **Tuesday 22nd March,** 6.30-8.30pm  Venue: Inverurie Community Campus/MS Teams, restrictions permitting. |  |  |