

INVERURIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 20 November 2023

7.00pm – Hybrid Meeting: in person at ICC and via Teams

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Alies welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
Attending / Apologies	<p><u>Attendance in person:</u> Alies Bartelds (Chair), Juliet Serrell (Treasurer), Neil Hendry (Head Teacher), Struan Gardner (Depute Head Teacher) Cara Smith (Teacher) Frances Swanston (Secretary), Cllr David Keating, Delia Sylus, Ellen Delph, Martin Misovic, Lynda Ansell, Anne Gibson, Louise Anderson, William Heinemann, Valia Spencer, Diane Leslie, Freya Bhreathnach (SAMH), Tracey Barclay, Laura Marr, Andy Marr and Marie-Gretzie Gow</p> <p>Pupils: Liam McPhee, Imogen Fletcher, Amy Spars</p> <p><u>Attendance via Teams:</u></p> <p>Cllr Marion Ewenson, Carolyn, Charlotte Cottam, Jenny Gordon, Leanne Roberts, Thomas McLeman, Mrs Lorimer, Mrs Price, Sam, Lynn Thomson, Steven Murray</p> <p>Apologies: Vaila Spencer, Ruth Kydd, Cllr Judy Whyte, Cllr Neil Baillie, Fiona Walker, Karen Simpson, Linda Barclay, Joanne Taylor</p>		
Matters Arising from previous minutes and approval of minutes	<p>Minutes of the last meeting approved: Proposed: Lynda Ansell, Seconded: Alies Bartelds.</p> <p>Alies reminded Parent Council that anyone can join the PC at any time, and to pass this message on to other parents. Email sent out to all PC members to share email addresses.</p>		
Treasurer update	<p>As per attached Treasurer's Summary (since the May 2023 meeting).</p> <p>Income: £525.59</p> <p>Expenditure: £400</p>		

	The fundraising from the PC pub quiz will go towards pupil's mental health / resilience, specifically supporting pupils on the Outward Bound trip with a focus on mental health.		
Head Teacher update	<p>Please see accompanying slide pack.</p> <p>Staff: in a good place with staffing numbers. Two new members of staff recently started; Mr S Dempsey, Physics, Mrs K French PSA. The school is not the employer of the school librarian, but as a key stakeholder the school is involved in the recruiting process. The post is currently being advertised to get the position filled.</p> <p>S5/6 parents evening: the first in person for a couple of years. Face to face went well and staff enjoyed seeing parents face to face as well as good feedback from parents. The results from the last two PC surveys had seen a shift in preference from virtual to face to face.</p> <p>S1 parents evening 4 December: 258 pupils in S1Parents/carers have been asked limit their appointments to ten and try whenever possible to select subjects that they feel their young person may study beyond S2.</p> <p>Curriculum – Members of the Curriculum working group likely to come to the next PC meeting to give presentation on our proposed plans for BGE.</p> <p>Abernecessities: winter 2023 focus on winter jackets. Staff are going to organise a winter jacket donation. Neil is keen to see this initiative support the Inverurie area.</p> <p>Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting (TMR): Laura O'Connor coming in January to give presentation along with representative from the Developing Young Workforce (DYW) to give updates. Careers Fair scheduled for 8 February 2024. After the success of last year and feedback over how busy it was and that pupils couldn't get to the stalls as so busy, there is likely to be a timeslot for each year to stagger numbers.</p> <p>Sponsored Afternoon: Money raised at the event is for school extra-curricular funds. 1100 pupils took part, in huge range of activities. 89 staff and senior students also supported the event. The school is to re-emphasise to pupils where the money is going for, reminder at registration.</p>	Neil Hendry	
Outward Bound Trip Presentation	Neil introduced teacher Cara Smith and pupils Liam McPhee, Imogen Fletcher, Amy Spars to give a short presentation on the S3 Outward Bound Leadership trip. 12 pupils went away in September. The pupils went through an application and interview process to be selected for the course with a focus on leadership skills. The attendees took part in events such as rowing, gorge walking, orienteering, a jog & dip, zip wiring and an expedition. The pupils said that the group came back as friends having been		

	<p>through a unique experience together, that they had been encouraged to move out of their comfort zones and felt more confident.</p> <p>There is a follow-on project now with the S3s working with upcoming Primary P6s to help them with the transition from primary to academy to make this process less daunting and more exciting.</p> <p>Neil emphasised the importance of the project and the 'ripple' effect and the upcoming S2 trip to Outward Bound near Fort William in January 2024. The S2 trip will have a focus on building confidence and self-esteem.</p> <p>120 S2s are signed up for the January trip (80 didn't take up); the S2s have been split into 2 groups with the first going Mon-Wed and the second Wed-Fri. Parents evening on Wed 29th November for the trip. PC funds from the pub quiz will assist in funded places. Plans for next year to encourage a larger number of young people to go.</p>		
<p>SAMH Presentation Freya Bhreathnach Time for Me Practitioner</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council (AC) commissioned 1 worker, SAMH got more funding to support 3 colleagues now working at 12 of the 17 academies. SAMH project focuses specifically on anxiety and low mood in young people. Support will be provided for 4 pupils at any one time, with 50-minute sessions. The approach is base around CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) with a focus on healthy relationships, family dynamics and working. Aberdeenshire Council asked SAMH to focus on school attendance, and those at risk of missing school due to their mental health. Alyson Drysdale takes recommendations for the Guidance Team for referrals to the SAMH programme. Referral criteria is low mood and anxiety and pupils not already accessing CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).</p> <p>It is anticipated that workshops will be run for parents and teachers in 2024 on 'listening to and supporting my child's well-being as parents'.</p> <p>SAMH project is currently funded for 3 years. Last year was the pilot, and the hope is it will continue into the future depending on funding.</p> <p>Suggestion for fundraiser idea linking parents in and reconnecting with their children. Workshops were held at the school about 5 years ago specifically for parents to help with this. Struan advised that there will be a meeting in the new year to progress the Family Learning Initiative.</p> <p>The PC discussed support being offered at the start of S1, supporting pupils with their mental health as they adjust to moving from primary to academy. Also discussed was the mental health aspect of autism/neurodiversity – would like to see this addressed in the future.</p>		

	<p>Cllr Keating - other organisations would also assist in coming into to schools to offer support such as The Samaritans – other funding may also be available. PC keen to see more funding opportunities for this.</p> <p>Alies had circulated a survey from Christine McLennan sent out by Aberdeenshire Council to seek views on how the Council should allocate its budget consultation.</p>		
Pub Quiz Update	<p>Friday 24th November – tickets sold out at 100 tickets.</p> <p>Raffle still can support - can't sell tickets in advance, only on the night.</p> <p>Donations can be handed in to Kilted Frog or school (or bring on evening). 6pm set up.</p>		
Dates for the diary	<p>See attached slides for full list of calendar dates.</p> <p>PC meetings are proposed to be hybrid going forward and are due to be held on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday 23 Jan 2024 – Presentation on tracking, monitoring and reporting (Struan not available, need to get someone to assist with hybrid set up). - Thursday 21 Mar 2024 - Wednesday 29 May 2024 <p>Here is also a link to the key dates for the coming term: https://inverurie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/School-Calendar-Parents-2023-2024.pdf</p>		
AOCB	<p>Alies attended a meeting with Laurence Finlay and Aberdeenshire PC Chairs. Good to meet other PC chairs, idea sharing. Aberdeenshire has problems in some areas in getting teachers to apply for posts, Inverurie doing okay, but typical for rural areas – completing with central belt. A letter has been sent to the Scottish Government asking for more attention to be given to rural areas for teacher recruitment, led by Fraserburgh Academy PC chair.</p> <p>Laurence Finlay and Cllr Keating to meet with Jenny Gilruth. AB to send copy of letter to Cllr Keating and Neil in advance of the meeting. Aberdeen University low for teacher training. Other schools facing similar difficulties.</p>	Alies Bartelds	

Inverurie Academy Parent Council

Accounts for period ended 20/11/23

25-May	Opening Bank and Cash Balance		£ 1,827.93
INCOME			
22-Aug	Easy Fundraising	£ 30.79	
14-Nov	Easy Fundraising	£ 24.80	
18-Nov	CASH from Quiz Ticket Sales	£ 470.00	
	TOTAL	£ 525.59	
	BALANCE		£ 2,353.52
EXPENSES			
31-Aug	Inverurie Academy Annual Awards Sponsor	£ 250.00	
25-Sep	Elgin Kintore Arms Room Hire for Quiz	£ 150.00	
	TOTAL	£ 400.00	
	BALANCE		£ 1,953.52
18-Nov	Closing Bank and Cash Balance		£ 1,953.52