

INVERURIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Wednesday 29 May 2024

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

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	<p>Alies welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the PC that meeting dates for PC meetings are on the school calendar almost a year in advance, and dates for next year will be up before the summer holidays on school website, including the date of the next AGM.</p> <p>Alies reminded parents to please email topics for meetings to the PC email address: inverurieacademypc@gmail.com We would like to hear from you.</p>		
Attending / Apologies	<p><u>Attendance in person</u>: Alies Bartelds (Chair), Juliet Serrell (Treasurer), Neil Hendry (Head Teacher), Struan Gardner (Depute Head Teacher) Frances Swanston (Secretary) Linda Barclay, Lynda Ansell, Martin Misovic, Jenny Gordon, Karen Simpson, Fiona Walker, Carol-Ann Lorimer, Colin Currie, Cllr Neil Baillie, Cllr Marian Ewenson, Cllr David Keating.</p> <p>Apologies: Ruth Kydd (Vice Chair)</p> <p><u>Attendance via Teams</u>: Tracey Barclay, Louise Anderson, Cllr Judy Whyte, Sam Gordon, Steven Price</p>		
Matters Arising from previous minutes and approval of minutes	<p>Minutes of the last meeting 21/3/24 approved. Proposed: Alies Bartelds, Seconded: Karen Simpson</p> <p>Alies was unsure what happened with the Council funding for the PC but had contacted Christine McLennan and the money has now appeared in the accounts (see Treasurer's Report).</p>		
Treasurer update	<p>As per attached Treasurer's Summary.</p> <p>Current balance of £2071.52, with nothing spent since last meeting.</p>		
Head Teacher update	<p>Please see accompanying slide pack for further details. In summary:</p>		

	<p>Wider Achievements – greater celebration of successes to be made after the awards night – photos of winners to be put up in school.</p> <p>Student Leadership -School and House captains about to be appointed for next year.</p> <p>CIRCLE Framework - responsibility of all to support young people. Upskilling, sharing strategies that are working. Supporting teachers to support pupils. This approach and framework are being used across all schools in Aberdeenshire. To be reported in more detail at a follow up PC meeting.</p> <p>CIRCLE resource to support Inclusive Learning and Collaborative Working (Secondary) Resources Education Scotland</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing Group - HWG would like to come to AGM to give a presentation on their work.</p> <p>Trios initiative– Encouraging staff to work in Trios, this is working well and helps with observing and changing culture, supporting staff with different techniques; leadership and learning. SLT open doors – visit other faculties, focus groups, surveys to staff and pupils.</p> <p>Secondary Quad – Inverurie Academy are in a Quad with, Kemnay, Gordon School Huntly and Banff Academy – working together and knowledge sharing. Other schools in Quad are keen to learn from Inverurie about the use of powerapps.</p> <p>Reading Recovery programme – Issues with literacy low levels in a small group of new S1 pupils. The school is looking at ways to help these families and young learners so that young learners can catch up. Options include intense 1-2-1 input every day, targeted help from teachers and some senior pupils could help with this. Cllr Ewensen asked why is this issue not being addressed at primary level? Neil advised that Early Years is not a skill set for secondary, but school will look at ways they can help with this. Low reading levels also impact on other areas of learning such as numeracy. Reductions in ASN support and PSA are contributing factors. A recent change in focus to play based learning in early years. School attendance also a factor and impacts on literacy. There may be opportunities for parents to volunteer to come in and read to school. Alies asked Neil to let the PC know if the school are looking for volunteers to come in and help with the reading.</p> <p>SG Updates - Struan updated the PC on the S2/S3 and S5 & S6 subject choices, with the majority of pupils getting their first choices with no reserves.</p> <p>Foundation Apprenticeships– two courses were pulled by the Local Authority due to numbers not meeting the required number to run the course. This included the Creative Media course.17 pupils had applied for FAs for construction – but this was oversubscribed so numbers were reduced initially</p>	Alies/Neil	
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	<p>to 10 but changed by the Council up to 12 places. Parents reported issues of challenges to get pupils to colleges where the FAs are being run on public transport with not enough time to get there/length of journey time. Guidance Team are working with pupils to work out which lessons will they miss, and how to make up these up, and how they can get the pupil to the work placement. Alies suggested parents get in touch with each other to look at lift sharing or the Guidance Team, who are able to help with supporting pupils. The FAs are starting in June this year, rather than August, as previously the case.</p> <p>Careers Fair will be in October 2023– earlier in the calendar and before subject choices start. Mock choices will also be brought forward to be completed before Christmas.</p> <p>Teaching Staff updates: School currently in a good place and are able to recruit staff to Inverurie and also to retain staff.</p> <p>Key dates – (see attached slides)</p> <p>P7 (new S1s) meeting– 5-7pm on Thursday June 13th. Alies can attend this meeting and invited anyone can help out, please let Alies know if you'd like to help. Linda Barclay offered to help.</p> <p>Awards Ceremony – around 900 capacity at Thainstone. Drew Drummond – key speaker for the evening. First Photography Kintore coming to take the photos and can order from website.</p> <p>From 2025 there will be two Inservice days in August.</p> <p>Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exams have gone well this year. • Travelling Gallery visit went well. • Foodbank drive/donations – went well and was donated locally to Inverurie community. • 236 pupils at Sports Day at ASV. Went well – good atmosphere with some great performances • Summer concert – Wednesday 26 June • Paris Trip next week (3 June) • Battlefields Trip– last week of term. <p>Alies thanked Mr Anderson and Mr Gardner for the hard job well done of sorting out the SQA examinations, timetables and subject choices.</p>	Alies/Linda	
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	<p>Linda Barclay offered to run a training session for staff on the use of the defibrillator. The PC offered to fundraise to cover cost of the training and can arrange it if needed. Neil to advise and training could be arranged for after August.</p> <p>Neil thanked the PC for their support. Much appreciated.</p>	Linda Barclay	
Date of Next Meeting	AGM and PC in September 2024 – future meeting are on the school website on Parent Council page.		