## **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	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.		
	Alies reminded parents to please email topics for meetings to the PC email address: <a href="mailto:inverurieacademypc@gmail.com">inverurieacademypc@gmail.com</a> We would like to hear from you.		
Attending / Apologies	Attendance in person: 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.		
	Apologies: Ruth Kydd (Vice Chair)		
	Attendance via Teams: Tracey Barclay, Louise Anderson, Cllr Judy Whyte, Sam Gordon, Steven Price		
Matters Arising from previous minutes and approval of minutes	Minutes of the last meeting 21/3/24 approved. Proposed: Alies Bartelds, Seconded: Karen Simpson 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).		
Treasurer update	As per attached Treasurer's Summary.		
	Current balance of £2071.52, with nothing spent since last meeting.		
Head Teacher update	Please see accompanying slide pack for further details. In summary:		

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Parent survey feedback - Neil shared an overview of the results from the Parent Feedback Survey recently undertaken. The school is finalising priorities from the survey to present to a staff meeting 2 weeks today. Neil will share the results of the survey and school feedback in more detail at the first meeting back after the summer (AGM). In summary: the majority of measures are coming in at as a score of 4 & 5, with the target of achieving 5s in all areas. 130 responses received (10% of school roll) – a decent return and enough to use the data to inform future work. The main areas with a score of 3 were: Supporting learning at home, School organising activities where we can learn together and School deal with bullying, which will be priorities for 24/25.	Neil Hendry Alies Bartelds	Neil Hendry
Parent teaching & learning event feedback - Parent Teaching & learning event was held in May. Low turn out, but those who were there fed back positively. Focus on S1-3 curriculum only. Improvements to be made for next year – an open evening (rather than set times) but drop-in sessions will also be available. Some feedback that the email and booking programme might be too complicated. Good staff response for the event with lessons learned for next year. Alies suggest including upper school 4/5/6. Parents reported back that the event was a really good demonstration on how teaching had changed since parents were at school, and what additional resources for parents were available to help support their pupil. Neil keen to get more information out on family learning and supporting learning at home.		
Discussion over the number of emails sent out by the school and from Aberdeenshire Council via the school email system. Alies to email Laurence Finday re. communication system with the suggestion of whether emails could be sent from the local authority centrally rather than Aberdeenshire Council sending to schools for schools send out.		
Alies noted the positive responses form the survey and pleased to see the areas with lower scores issues are going to become a priority for next year.		
School Draft Priorities 24/25		
<b>Teaching and learning -</b> Neil presented the draft priorities and explained the use of powerapps for the AAP system reporting. The system is much quicker to process information with more data available for the school.		
<b>BGE Curriculum/Developing Young Workforce</b> – school have a DYW coordinator, action plan in place for school, developing faculty links, DYW focus days, S1 introduction days running in 25/26. S2 BGE subject electives are being developed and running in 25/26.		
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**Wider Achievements –** greater celebration of successes to be made after the awards night – photos of winners to be put up in school.

Student Leadership -School and House captains about to be appointed for next year.

**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.

<u>CIRCLE resource to support Inclusive Learning and Collaborative Working (Secondary) | Resources |</u>
Education Scotland

Health & Wellbeing Group - HWG would like to come to AGM to give a presentation on their work.

**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.

**Secondary Quad** – Inverurie Academy are in a Quad with, Kemnay, Gordon School Hunty and Banff Academy – working together and knowledge sharing. Other schools in Quad are keen to learn from Inverurie about the use of powerapps.

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.

**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.

**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

Alies/Neil

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 staring in June this year, rather than August, as previously the case.

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.

**Teaching Staff updates**: School currently in a good place and are able to recruit staff to Inverurie and also to retain staff.

**Key dates** – (see attached slides)

**P7** (new S1s) meeting—5-7pm on Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.

From 2025 there will be two Inservice days in August.

## **Highlights**

- 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.

Alies thanked Mr Anderson and Mr Gardner for the hard job well done of sorting out the SQA examinations, timetables and subject choices.

Alies/Linda

AOCB	<b>Coach parking -</b> There is still an issue with people parking cars on the single yellow line on Victoria Street, as well as some coaches parked on the yellow lines at start of the day, making it difficult and	Net	
	dangerous to get past around the roundabout with the Greengrocer and Wetherspoons. PC member has dashcam footage which will be passed on to Neil, who will forward on to the bus companies via	Neil Local	
	the school transportation unit. Discussion on the need to enforce the parking restriction during the day and possibly looking at a one-way system. Cllr Ewenson advised that the Police say they do not have the resources to enforce parking on Victoria Street. The Local Members will take this issue to a Council meeting.	Members	
	Aberdeenshire PC Chairs update – Three of the 17 Aberdeenshire PC chairs were able to attend an online meeting with the cabinet secretary to discuss teacher shortages in rural areas. No formal feedback from this meeting available yet, but Cllr Keating said the message back on this from a meeting with Education Scotland was that this issue was 'on message'. Laurence Findlay, Director of Education & Children's Services to look at a review of teacher training. Angus, Shetland, Orkney and Highland regions area all in similar boat to us a rural authority, and not the same as urban authorities with teacher recruitment issues.		
	<b>Mobile Phone Policy -</b> The school has had an updated mobile phone policy just over 12 months Things are improving. Phones still need to be used by pupils in class as the school is short of devices for technology in the classrooms. But in some classes, there is a no device rule.		
	<b>Uniform -</b> New guidance is expected by the Scottish Government on uniform in schools. Neil advised that the school intend to revisit the school uniform next year but will wait for the SG guidance to be issued first. School uniform rules differ from school to school, but most have something. There is likely to be a consultation on uniform from the school. Current issues are pupils not wearing blazers, wearing sports clothes for PE and not changing into and out of uniform, issues with cost of uniform and around enforcing the wearing of uniform.		
	<b>Next Fundraiser Pub Quiz -</b> The next PC pub quiz is likely to be November time, Alies to contact quiz master.	Alies	
	<b>School defibrillator -</b> This has been on the school building since before covid and was fundraised for by the PC. Every 3 years the agreement to have the defibrillator on the school has to be signed by the PC. Alies will sign the form on behalf of PC. Alies also to check that the location of the defibrillator is registered correctly so that it can be found by the ambulance service.	Alies	

	Linda Barclay offered to run a training session for staff on the use of the defibrillator. The PC offered to fundraise to cover cost or the training and can arrange it if needed. Neil to advise and training could be arranged for after August.	Linda Barclay	
	Neil thanked the PC for their support. Much appreciated.		
Date of Next Meeting	AGM and PC in September 2024 – future meeting are on the school website on Parent Council page.		