

INVERURIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday 23 January 2024

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

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Welcome	Ruth welcomed everyone to the meeting. Agenda order changed to Curriculum for BGE presentation, DYW presentation, HT Update.		
Attending / Apologies	<u>Attendance in person:</u> Ruth Kydd (Vice Chair), Juliet Serrell (Treasurer), Frances Swanston (Secretary), Neil Hendry (Head Teacher), Claire Taylor (Deputy HT), David Anderson (Deputy HT), Vaila Spencer, Jenny Gordon, Leanne Robertson, Martin Misovic, Andy Marr, Kevin McBain, Cllr David Keating, Cllr Neil Baillie. <u>Attendance via Teams:</u> Fiona Walker, Tracey Barclay, Joanne Taylor, Elaine Bourke, Maria Smith, Keirin Pacitti, Steven Price, Lynn Thomson, Ken Gibson, Anne Gibson, Maria Cascio, Charlotte Cottan, Mrs Lorimer <u>Apologies:</u> Alies Bartelds (Chair), Sam Gordon, Ellen Delph, Cllr Judy White, Cllr Marion Ewenson, Lynda Ansell, Louise Anderson		
Matters Arising from previous minutes and approval of minutes	Minutes of the last meeting 20/11/23 approved. Proposed: Julia Serrell: Seconded: Frances Swanston		
Treasurer Update	As per attached Treasurer's Summary. £1529.20 raised at PC Pub Quiz. Current balance £3012.00		

	<p>PC to present the money raised at the pub quiz to the school to support the Outward Bound programme.</p> <p>Ruth thanked everyone who helped organise, those who attended the event and people who donated items for the raffle on behalf of the PC.</p>		
Curriculum for BGE Presentation	<p>David Anderson and Claire Taylor gave a presentation on the proposed new model Curriculum for Broad General Education (BGE) work that is being undertaken at the school (see attached presentation).</p> <p>The presentation explained the approach Inverurie Academy are taking to adapt the BGE within the school curriculum offer. The BGE proposal is for pupils to have elective choices for areas of learning that are skills based and meet the Careers Education Standard entitlements of 1 or 2 periods a week, mostly likely to start from S2 onwards. The school are looking to bring this in by 2025, possibly earlier.</p> <p>It is recommended by the school that the electives start in S2 rather than S1 as S1s often have a lot to cope with through the transition from primary to secondary school. By S2 young learners have a better understanding of the curriculum. NH keen for the BGE to be delivered by individual faculties so that impacts and benefits can be clearly demonstrated. There will be routes for young learners to progress from S2 to S3 with their chosen electives, alongside their subject choices. This model won't change the current curriculum; it will allow for more personalisation and with a wider skills choice for pupils.</p> <p>The school is working closely with local businesses and industry to get them into the classroom. The school has three DYW Captains in S6 who are supporting the DYW programme.</p> <p>NH - The BGE work is the next step for Inverurie based on the recommendations of the last school inspection which recommended the linking up of skills with the curriculum. This approach fits well with the Hayward report (Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment Report) on the approach to examinations in upper phase.</p>		
Developing Young Workforce (DYW	<p>Kevin McBain (DYW coordinator for Inverurie Academy) gave a presentation to the PC on "<i>Connecting employers and young people</i>". (see attached presentation). Kevin reported that many employers are keen to engage with schools but sometimes they don't always know how to. DYW are working to improve this and engage with employers; these connections are a continuous focus throughout the school years. DYW are organising events such as the <i>Build your Future</i> final at Pittodrie AFC. WM Donald is running a construction/civil engineering event in the school in June 2024, other examples include Sky coming into to schools to do interactive training using green</p>		

	<p>screens, reporting, visits to STV, Aberdeen Airport, J G Ross night time visit and local hotels running barista training, British Airways Teams call for pupils interested in cabin crew career.</p> <p>Kevin works with the DYW Captains in S6. The school are keen to run workshops for parents to come in and talk about their careers and for businesses to come in and engage with young learners. Keen to promote the message of 'no wrong path'.</p> <p>DYW and the Foundation Apprenticeships programmes can work together.</p> <p>NH to get a list from Derek Ritchie to Kevin from the BID 'Engage with Inverurie' event held at the school.</p>	<p>NH</p>	
<p>Head Teacher update</p>	<p>Please see attached HT presentation.</p> <p>Staffing: PE Mr James Mathews returning after February half term, Modern languages – vacancy 0.6 FTE (ideally Spanish/French languages). Support for Learning position interviewing 25/1/24.</p> <p>Librarian position has been filled. 2 February start.</p> <p>S2/S3 options evening: Presentation about the subject choices, break out areas to speak to different faculties – reminder to fill in the google form from the school via email. Not Eventbrite, no tickets issued.</p> <p>Careers evening – for all years. Feedback from last year was the event was too busy. Format changing due to feedback with the event only for S1-6 with no P7s invited this year.</p> <p>Swimming pool update – tiles still to be fixed. If closure continues after February half term, there may be implications for students with performance exams if the pool isn't open. Inverurie Councillors have written to contractor to ask what the real timescales are. Better comms needed from Live Life Aberdeenshire to the community. Cllr Keating and Cllr Bailie will share any response with the community.</p> <p>Parents evenings - now back in person, which are going well with a preference for this format moving forward post-covid. Nice to have people back in the school. At the S4/5 parents evening the school trialled using the school bell every 5 minutes for appointment slots, which overall worked well.</p>		

	<p>Outward Bound – S3 Outwards Bound Leaders group have started visiting primary schools to talk more about the OB trip in secondary school. 118 S2 pupils at Loch Eil Outward Bound this week. The school hope this number will increase next year.</p> <p>See attached slides for full list of calendar dates.</p>		
Dates for the diary	<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"> - Thursday 21 Mar 2024 - Wednesday 29 May 2024 <p>Here is also a link to the key dates for the coming term: https://inverurie.berdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/School-Calendar-Parents-2023-2024.pdf</p>		
AOCB	<p>SAMH workshop email of 11 January - check the details if you are still wanting to go. Free 90-minute workshops around young people and mental health. Link and QR code on the email from sent out via school.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire PC Chairs - Letter sent by Aberdeenshire PC Chairs to Jenny Gilruth, Education Secretary raising the issue of the difficulties of attracting and retaining teachers in the north-east. Laurence Findlay, Aberdeenshire Council Director of Education has met with Jenny Gilruth raising the issue of shortage of teachers in the NE. JG replied to say she would like to meet with the NE PC chairs and is coming to Aberdeenshire Cllr Keating informed the PC that it is proposed to take Jenny to Fraserburgh to visit the Academy accompanied by Laurence Findlay and the Chief Executive of the General Teaching Council for Scotland. Alies asks the PC for any questions for Jenny to be sent to her using the PC email address: inverurieacademypc@gmail.com</p> <p>Communications from the PC - moving forward the PC committee will try to send everything in one, rather than multiple documents.</p> <p>School budgets – Cllr Keating highlighted two consultations of Aberdeenshire website; 1) is on the council budget 4000 responses already, but still time to respond to this, and 2) Toilet provision in school consultation. Both can be found here: Engage Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Car/bus parking - continued parking issues along Victoria Street causing problems for buses and cars accessing the school. Suggestion made for a traffic warden to help manage traffic flow and to</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>	

	<p>ask school transport operators if they would be able to delay leaving the school after morning drop off until school start time, to alleviate traffic issues on Victoria Street.</p> <p>Problems also caused by illegal parking - police check from time to time, but this is not enforced on a regular basis. NH advised that this had be raised with bus companies previously and many buses are unable to wait until the school is started as they have other picks up to make straight after the drop off. Not all PC members aware of the overflow (former bus park) car park. Currently no signage to the overflow.</p>		
--	--	--	--