

[Inverurie Academy Parent Council](#)

Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday 21 March 2024

Inverurie Community Campus: Hybrid meeting (in person / Teams)

19.00 - 21.00

Item	Discussion	Actions	Responsible
Welcome	Alies (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting in person and on Teams. All those online are encouraged to type their name in the chat so that we can minute attendees.		
Attending / Apologies	<u>Present:</u> Alies Bartelds (Chair), Ruth Kydd (Vice Chair), Frances Swanston (Secretary), Neil Hendry (Head Teacher), Cllr Judy Whyte, Cllr Marion Ewenson, Lynda Ansell, Laura Marr, Linda Barclay, Laura O'Connor, Kieran Pacitti, Leanne Robertson, Steven Price, Joanne Taylor, Ellen Delph, Frances Swanston, Carol-Ann Lorimer, Lynn Thomson, Fiona Walker, Colin Currie, Martin Misovic <u>Apologies:</u> Cllr Neil Baillie / Cllr David Keating / Juliet Serrell (Treasurer)		
Matters Arising	Alies raised the matter raised under AOB last time around bus / pupil drop offs. Bus companies have other contracts to fulfil therefore they are the priority for the access route. Parents and carers are asked to encourage active travel to school or drop off further away from school wherever possible Ruth Kydd proposed the minutes and Frances Swanston seconded		
Treasurer update	Summary provided as part of the slides: Current Bankbalance: £1546.33 Neil was presented with the Pub Quiz Cheque for the Outward Bound trip Income this month was through Easyfundraising: Fundraising Charity Fundraising Online You Spend Online, Brands Donate Easyfundraising – all parents and carers are encouraged to use this to purchase goods online as this generates money for the parent council. Alies also mentioned that the Aberdeenshire Council funding for the year has not yet been received – she will chase Christine McLennan for this and escalate through Cllrs if needs be.	Contact Christine McLennan re funding	Alies
Tracking, Monitoring & Reporting (TMR)	Laura O'Connor (DHT) presented the proposed changes planned for senior reporting for next year. BGE (S1-S3) will not change however the timeline for the senior phase will change, with interventions also included. Stakeholder surveys have taken place, these included a working group with pupils, electronic feedback from parents and discussions with teachers. Positives from the surveys included the return to face to face parents evening and how popular this had been with parents / carers and teachers alike. Challenges included consistent tracking reporting to ensure parents / carers have an overview of how their young person is performing. Attainment Action Plan process (AAP) have replaced letters of concern for N4/5/Higher pupils. These will be issued separately (if required) to any TMR, as the focus is on early intervention. Parents eve for S4/S5 will be		

	<p>switched around as it provides teachers with the additional time to assess how the pupil is coping / performing against the curriculum</p> <p>January prelims: S4 year not likely to get study leave. All pupils will experience a sports hall and externally invigilated exam, with the remainder sat over class time</p> <p>S5/6 will be a mixed model: there will be some study leave but not all exams will take place in that week, others will be in classroom situation/s. Study leave has a positive impact on the pupils outcomes so it will continue. However the amount of study leave will be kept to a certain maximum, to ensure that there is enough classroom time left to cover the full curriculum in a timely fashion. Further details and finalised proposal to be shared at the next parent council meeting</p> <p>The TMR from the school should not be a surprise to parents / carers nor pupils as there are opportunities over the year to discuss (eg parents eve). The target grade is a mutual decision between pupil and teacher in a learning situation. It is meant to be aspirational but realistic.</p> <p>Pupils are now choosing subjects based on their prelims at choice meetings with guidance teachers. First week in August, teachers will review post exam results to make sure the course choices are still at the level that will enable pupils to achieve.</p>		
<p>Head Teacher update</p>	<p>Currently staffing is at a good level with only 0.6FTE short of a full compliment. There is likely to be movement between now and August. Inverurie Academy have requested more probationers across several faculties including modern languages, art and design and PE.</p> <p>A query was raised about lack of HE cooking in 1st year over the year due to staff absence. HE classes in S4-6 are prioritised where there are staff shortages however the Academy tries to deliver where they can for pupils. Classes must be taken by qualified teachers from a safety and insurance perspective.</p> <p>Very positive feedback from one parent about the upbeat, passionate teachers at parents evening resulting in a good and informative experience for parents.</p> <p>Neil outlined the success of teams across the school for various sports and activities: barista champions, concerts and the fashion show. Thanks to the Kilted Frog for the heritage mugs from the café to support the winning “Inverista” barista champions. The fashion show was also a huge success, raising £600 for Macmillan cancer. The school show (mid October 24) will be School of Rock: pupils have attended auditions in the last week.</p> <p>Career Ready Graduation: pupils work with mentor through 5th year, and have a 4 week paid placement at the mentors firm. This is no longer funded so it will cost however the benefits are huge. Alies confirmed that future fundraising from the Parent Council may be able to support this.</p>		
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unisex toilets raised as a potential concern given feedback received via Inverurie residents page on Facebook: a limited number of responses (in relation to the school roll) were received to a survey about toilets. The majority of respondents were not in favour of unisex toilets (21 responses were received). No parents present in person had concerns about the toilets, as it was noted that there are options for pupils to choose from. Pupil focus groups had not raised toilets as one of the issues they wished to be addressed. 		

	<p>Cllr Whyte confirmed that conveniences provision in Council buildings was being reviewed by a Cllr / Officer working group. A public and age appropriate survey responses had been requested and Aberdeenshire Council had the highest response (in the 1000s) to any of its surveys. The results of this will go to the Business Services committee in May, and thereafter go to full Council to be voted on. The theme around this is “something for everyone”</p> <p>The link to the Business Services committee page with upcoming meetings is here: Browse meetings - Business Services Committee - Aberdeenshire Council (modern.gov.co.uk)</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council regularly engage / publish consultation documents here: Engage Aberdeenshire – there is a current one around school holidays for the next few years which parents and carers may wish to complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework issued by google classroom: there was a request for paper copies instead of reliance on Google classrooms. Mr Hendry confirmed the schools use of google classrooms and some parents confirmed that this was the best way for their child to learn. It is recognised that not having to make use of their phone whilst doing homework is beneficial for most pupils, but as google classroom is here to stay as it serves on balance the needs of most parents and pupils, it is recommended to either print the homework or read it on a different device. Any parent with issues using google classrooms is encouraged to contact the school to seek support if required in the use of Google classrooms. • Update on Aberdeenshire Council Chairs meeting: with the ongoing issue of probationer teacher shortage, all PC Chairs are now in contact and are trying to arrange a meeting with the Minister to discuss further • In the (hopefully) unlikely event of a pupil being ill prior to an exam, there are procedures within the booklet “Your Exams” which is being distributed in the next few days to pupils in S4-S6 		
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Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 29 May 2024 in person at the Campus and on Teams**