



Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minute of the Meeting held 18th May 2015 at 7pm

Present

Linda Watson
Helen Cameron
Karen Cormack
Laura Ross
Angela Maclean
Alison MacLeod

Alister Mackinnon
Lindsay Ramsay
Sandra Rea
Nigel Greenwood
Stephen Mackenzie
Samantha Blyth

Apologies

Carol Seaton
Graham Mackenzie
Mike Evans

Anita Munro
Margaret Patterson
Alan Radin

Minutes of the previous Parent Council meeting held on 9th March 2015 were accepted.

Matters Arising

A.M., S.M. and M.E. have passed their minibus driving course.

The Wi-Fi program is progressing. Passes are currently being trialled in the library and seniors will shortly be given codes for their portable devices. Trials in Kingussie and Alness have been successful so far, however both schools have a significantly smaller roll than Dingwall.

Staffing numbers are currently remaining the same. These figures are manageable during usual school periods. It is becoming increasingly difficult however, to provide 'extra' cover. For example, staff members are needed during exam times to scribe for pupils. K.C. will continue to update the committee at each meeting.

A questionnaire will be sent out to all pupil's home email accounts, asking for feedback on the environment/temperature of the school. The wording will be chosen carefully to ensure there are no leading questions. Karen will look into survey monkey to see if it will provide a better platform for the questions.

A discussion was held regarding the new distributor road and the potential closing of Craig Road as a result of Network Rail's proposal to close the Craig Road crossing. It has been agreed that the Parent Council will be consulted if the plans go ahead. H.C. will also draft a letter to Colin Howell.

Spring Fair

The feedback for the Spring Fair has been very positive. K.C. was presented with flowers from the Parent Council in recognition of the hard work, time and energy that she put into the day. The pupils in particular have given great feedback which included a request for a fair to be held every term! Whilst this is not possible, it has been agreed that the Spring Fair will be run again in 2016.

The Parent Council would like to thank everybody who helped make the Spring Fair the success it was. With a special mention to the BBQ team who worked very hard to ensure that the BBQ ran as smoothly as possible all day. In light of the difficulties faced by the BBQ team, it was agreed that a catering size/style of BBQ will be purchased by the Parent Council to be used at the next Spring Fair. It was agreed that the use of the BBQ will also be offered to any group within the school that is raising funds for activities or providing CfE skills for the pupils of Dingwall Academy. S.B. will apply for funding from the Counsellor's Discretionary Budget to help toward the cost.

Treasurer's Report

Savings Account: £78.36

Cheque Account: £2,286.48

Monies will not be moved back into the savings account as payments are due for the new BBQ and Prize Giving.

Parental Engagement Plan

The school improvement plan for 2015/16 will include a parental engagement plan.

Current areas that are being developed include:

- Parental engagement with the P.E. Dept.
- Child Parenting Groups – Targeted groups (12 pupils)
- Parental involvement in the timeline for Parent's Nights/Reports/Options etc.
- Parental involvement in the consideration of reports/reporting styles.
- Increased number of parental information evenings looking at study skills

Exams and Study Leave

All new Highers, advanced Highers and intermediate exams are now finished.

There were approximately 20 pupils who did not have exams this year and therefore did not need study leave. The school worked with Skills Development Scotland/Bridge to Employment to provide a course offering C.V. writing skills, placement experience and workplace visits. The course proved very successful and popular. It is expected that the 2016 study leave will be much shorter.

A.O.C.B

There has been no response to the R.O.W letter.

The new Dingwall Academy facebook page has been a huge success and staff have been working closely with pupils to decide how best to use social media to promote/benefit the school. As a result it has been decided that the facebook page will currently be used to publicise achievements. This will lead to a feel good page that celebrates the talent and hard work of all pupils. It was noted that there have been no problems with any posts or comments since the start of the page several months ago. This is a credit to the school, staff and pupils.

There is a problem with S3 Biology being over-subscribed for the coming year. However, the SMT are currently working to overcome this problem so that all pupils get their first science option.

S.B. asked for reading lists to be put on the school website.

The date of the next meeting is the 7th of September at 7pm.