



Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minute of the Meeting held 3rd November 2014 at 7pm

Present

Helen Cameron
Laura Ross
Samantha Blyth
Anita Munro
Karen Cormack

Carol Seaton
Lindsay Ramsay
Mike Evans
Graham Mackenzie
Alan Radin

Apologies

Dawn Morgan
Sandra Rae
Nigel Greenwood
Angela MacLean

Alister MacKinnon
Margaret Patterson
Alison MacLeod
Stephen Mackenzie

A draft copy of the previous minute was used to consider any matters arising. The full minute will be available shortly.

DIGGers

Prior to the commencement of official business, Susan Swallow gave a presentation on the work of the DIGGers group. Members of the parent council were asked to support the group by volunteering to help with practical tasks and also by raising funds and awareness of the group. Susan explained that this would not only help the group with their immediate work but would also provide the platform they need to reach their next award (RHS level 4), which specifically states the group must have regular input from the parents of students.

Matters Arising

Sam will contact Gillian Johnstone regarding the minute secretary position and Alison MacLeod to confirm the minibus training is still required.

Karen has forwarded the information Jim Stevens asked for at the previous meeting. As of yet, she has not had an update from him.

A group of staff have volunteered to support the DofE project and parents will now be invited to join the support team.

Sponsored Walk

The sponsored walk was a success (apart from the size of the chocolate bars!) –
Suggestions for next year include:

Either a sign or marshals to be placed behind the P.C. tables to ensure pupils continue on the correct route.

First aid facilities to be provided by teachers at the check point on the Brahan Estate.
The Parent Council will both order and fund the refreshments next year.

Council Budget Consultation

Graham Mackenzie explained that each service has been charged with the responsibility of reducing their budget by 4%. As a result of this the council have produced a consultation to inform their priorities for services in the Highland region. The consultation provides groups and individuals with the opportunity to complete a multiple choice questionnaire with two open ended questions at the end of the paper. Helen Cameron will draft a response to the consultation and email it to all members for feedback prior to submission.

Concerns regarding the proposed cuts included:

- A conflict between the offer of distance learning to provide a wider range of subjects to students v proposed cuts to I.C.T. equipment and support
- 1-2% proposed staffing cuts (bringing the total to either a 6.2 or 7.2% cut in the past 5 years)

Alternative suggestions included:

- A review of the I.C.T. budget
- An end to forced procurement procedures
- An end to the Council Tax freeze

Spring Fair

A plan will be drawn up for the committee to consider. The plan will be based on ideas taken from both the SMT and the pupils. Sam will email the committee if any actions are needed prior to the next meeting e.g. the hire of inflatable equipment.

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances:

Cheque Account £1,756.71

Savings Account £1,178.18

Monies are still due from the cheque account for the sponsored walk refreshments and secretarial costs.

A.O.C.B

The dates of the Christmas concert and social events will be made available earlier next year in order to help parents plan in advance. Karen will check the calendar is now available.

All parents will be contacted regarding volunteer positions for the projects:

- DIGGers
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- S2 House tutor/Spring Fair project
- S3 Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

The date of the next meeting is 19th January 2014 at 7pm.