



Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minute of the Meeting held 9th May at 7pm

Present

Helen Cameron	Lindsay Ramsay
Karen Cormack	Alan Radin
Laura Ross	Alison MacLeod
Samantha Blyth	Sandra Rea
Alister Mackinnon (attended part of meeting)	

Apologies

Stephen Mackenzie	Eileen Bice
Margaret Patterson	Alister Mackinnon
Graham Mackenzie	Anita Munro

Minutes of the previous Parent Council meeting held on 8th February 2016 were agreed.

School Buildings Structural Check

KC advised that initial checks of the whole school building have been carried out and they show no cause for concern.

Spring Fair

This was a great success with takings up on last year. The Dunk Tank proved very popular, and the Bottle Stall and Tombola, Snack Bar, Art Stall, and BBQ were also lucrative. Having some of the inflatables inside worked well.

Cockburns, Munros and Tesco were thanked for their generous donations of food and prizes.

Proceeds of the bottle stall (£637 approx) are to be transferred to DAPC account.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance:

Savings Account: £78.36

Cheque Account: £332.85

The Go-Kart Club has asked for a donation from the PC to pay for safety equipment. KC suggested that they be paid for out of the Spring Fair proceeds. Mr Ross is to price equipment and report back. PC to get a mention.

Budget/Staffing Update

ASN budget is due to be finalised soon and more cuts are to be expected. KC reported that two History teachers and two HFT teachers are leaving, two of whom have opted to take voluntary redundancy. Only one History teacher and one HFT teacher will be replaced.

Mrs Parke, Tulloch House SE Tutor, is retiring. The school will then go back to having four houses rather than the current five. Pupils currently in Tulloch will be redistributed among the other House Tutors, whose caseload will therefore be increased.

KC also reported that the school has exceeded its Principal Teacher entitlement. She is unsure what formula this allocation is based on and will investigate.

The school roll is expected to fall to about 1030 pupils in August, once the current S6, the biggest year group, has left.

A local Partner has very generously volunteered to fund the rural skills course.

KC advised that a few pupils can go to the Velocity Café in Inverness to learn bike repair and this will lead to a National 3 qualification.

SB is to go to a workshop on artist in residence scheme, which can be set up as a social enterprise.

IT/Chromebooks

The roll out of chromebooks will not now happen until Autumn 2017. KC has yet to be informed officially of this decision. Also - each school in Highland is to be given the same band width regardless of size, whether 10 or 1000 pupils.

KC advised that the school still has to pay a wrap around fee each year for the use of laptops which they received 8 years ago and which are now out of date and no longer work. Phase 1 of the IT in-house refresh by Fujitsu is to begin next week (w/c 16th May). Fujitsu is in the running to have their contract renewed by Highland Council.

KC reported that Google classroom worked well and was used in classrooms but speed was still very slow.

Road Safety

The PC is to raise concerns with Highland Council about vehicles speeding on Old Evanton Road so that measures can be put in place to restrict speed. There is a risk to pupils walking to and from school. HC to write to Alister Mackinnon.

Rock Challenge

Dingwall came second but is going to the Scottish Final on 17th June on a wild card. SB to apply for £2000 from the Discretionary Fund to pay for transport etc. Dingwall won "The Spirit of Rock Challenge" award.

Parental Engagement/Bright Futures

KC reported that a joint session with some of the school's lowest attaining pupils and their parents had been relatively successful.

S1 homework night was popular but any follow-up has so far not been available. KC would like to put together a group of parents from a cross-section of pupils to look at how parents can be supported by the school.

Parent Council Partnership

SB advised that the Parent Council Partnership is looking at how to get more parents involved generally. SB to investigate setting up a Facebook page and to see how other PCs are faring with this. PC Facebook page and parental engagement to be flagged up in May Newsletter.

Christmas Fair

Friday, 2nd December, 7.00pm. SB has already sold 9 stalls. KC to find out how many stalls the school wants to run. The cost of having a stall is £10 until September, £15 thereafter. PC to run bottle stall, raffle and BBQ. SB to organise an advert that can be shared digitally.

AOCB

LR raised the issue of there being a hole in the run up to one of the long jump pits. KC to investigate.

The date of the next meeting (AGM) is Monday, 5th September 2016 at 7pm