

## Dingwall Academy Parent Council

### Minutes

24 April 2021

#### Present:

Karen Cormack                      Karen O'Hanlon                      Sam Blyth                      Hilary Cameron  
Gill Macpherson                      John Tompkins                      Paul Macpherson

#### Apologies:

Graham Mackenzie, Emma Whitham, Alister Mackinnon

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes from previous meeting: all in agreement/approved
3. Matters Arising –  
Breakfast club is up and running as before
4. Head teacher's Report
  - Pleased with 'full return to school', albeit acknowledge difficult for some, particularly those in crisis. **ACTION: Sam to write urgently about when full access to support services will be available**
  - Mitigation measures in place as before, with face coverings. Are encouraging time out of doors during break and lunch-time.
  - All schools have been asked to focus on learning & teaching for the 1<sup>st</sup> three weeks of term, this will be followed by 5 weeks of SQA assessment, with timetable changes 14<sup>th</sup> June, for the final 2 weeks. No in person P7 transition events, instead on-line content and summer activities, with possibility for some single class visits.
  - SQA assessments are the priority this term – difficult balance between attainment & wellbeing, and requirement to balance teacher-marking time. Schools have freedom when to assess, how frequently and on the type/design of the assessment but must meet SQA requirements/standards. In large schools, there is less flexibility. Hence, see variation across the Highlands. There will be a free appeals system; yet to see the details of this. Shona Macleod, member of staff, is available to support senior pupils who are anxious at this difficult time.
  - During the final 2 weeks of term, Karen C is keen to ensure that there are some fun activities. All suggestions welcome e.g. Inflatables, outdoor activities for year groups etc.
  - The Council has approved plans for the outdoor shelter and quotes are out for digging the foundations. **Karen C and Parent Council would like to thank Cllr Graham Mackenzie for his support and for securing the go ahead for this important project.**
  - On Staffing – new physics teacher, Mr Sharkey has joined the science department; and Mrs K MacLeay will be joining the maths department shortly. **ACTION: Sam to write re staff:pupil ratio.**
5. Treasurer's Report  
Current account balance £1,500 and savings £78.
6. School Uniform Bank  
Agreed that the parents and carers of P7 transition youngsters should be made aware of the Project and that a short video should be circulated. There should also be an appeal for any spare uniform and Karen OH offered to assist with sorting. **ACTION: Karen C/Karen OH**
7. AOB  
Karen C has asked staff for their views on any lessons from lockdown i.e. are there any things that the school should adopt going forward e.g. Friday email to parents & carers. Agreed that she should ask wider school community for their views. **ACTION: Karen C**
8. Date of next meeting : 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 @7pm