

Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minutes

12/11/2018

Present

Helen Cameron
Emma Whitham
Laura Ross
Karen Cormack

Karen O'Hanlon
Alister Mackinnon
Sam Blyth
Lindsay Ramsay

Graham Mackenzie
Gill Macpherson
Paul Macpherson
Maria Kelly

Apologies

Alan Stewart, Stephen Mackenzie, Lynne Bell, Angela Maclean

1. Minutes from meeting Sept 2018 proposed by Lindsay Ramsay and seconded by Gillian Macpherson
2. All actions from previous meeting complete
 - Stephen Mackenzie pursuing ongoing correspondence with Mr Fred Lees over RoW access through school.
3. **Treasurer Update** - Sam Blyth
 - No exact balance available as bank signatory details just updated last week.
 - Balance around £9000. £7746.37 received from Highland Council allocation. £500 donated to Annie team and £200.51 spent on sponsored walk refreshments.
4. **Highland Council Freezer on non-essential expenditure**
 - Sam raised issue that there is a freeze on non-essential expenditure across all school in the Highlands.
 - Graham raised his concerns about what this means for Dingwall Academy and urged for confirmation as soon as possible about what non-essential means.
 - Alister advised that the new Chief Executive Donna Manson is due to meet head teachers this week to discuss and define terms.
 - Alister advised he was hopeful and confident that Donna is very experienced and will have best interests of schools in mind.
 - Karen Cormack advised that budgets have been very tight in recent years which has meant there has been no non-essential expenditure.
 - Karen Cormack asked for clarification on advertised posts. Alister Mackinnon to look into this but said that posts already approved will be advertised.

Action 1 - Alister to keep parent council up to date

Action 2 - Alister to confirm recent recruitment request will be advertised.

5. Christmas Fair

- Event Date - Friday 7th December

- S6 Pupils taking lead on organising event - all proceeds to go to Teenage Cancer Trust

Action 3 - Emma, Karen O'Hanlon, Alister, Maria and Helen have agreed to man bottle stall. Emma to email to confirm.

Action 4 - Emma to email Stephen, David, Paul and Alan to confirm they will do BBQ.

Action 5 - Emma to order BBQ meat.

Action 6 - Helen and Emma to set up bottle stall on Friday am

Action 7 - Karen C to ask a couple of kids to help

Action 8 - Alister to supply Santa suit

Action 9 - Emma to email Anna-Maria to find out who the 6th Years have written to regarding raffle prizes

6. Parental Engagement

- Helen, Sam and Emma hosted a parental engagement drop in session on Friday 9th November. One parent turned up. Lizbeth Collie keen to work in team to develop uniform and book swap service in school. Karen O'Hanlon agreed she'd like to join Lizbeth with this project.

Action 10 - Emma to connect Lizbeth and Karen O'Hanlon to Karen Cormack

Action 11 - Karen Cormack to arrange meeting with said parents in the new year.

7. Prelim Review

Karen Cormack advised that the purpose and benefit of prelims is under review. Staff are currently being consulted on the matter and feedback is mixed so far. Parents will have the opportunity to feed into discussion in due course.

8. Spring Fair

Date confirmed at Saturday 23rd March - 1100-1500.

Parent Council decided to have an experience themed raffle.

Action 12 - Emma to set up Google Docs file for all parent council members to share ideas

Action 13 - Maria to contact Armed Forces about inflatables

Action 14 - Karen C to ask office staff to get quotes for inflatables

Action 15 - Emma to arrange Food market

Action 16 - Helen to arrange First Aid cover

9. AOCB

- The potential for having a quiz night as a fundraiser was suggested

Action 17 - Helen to contact Howard to ask if he is interested in organising

- Sam advised all the Highland Parent Council Conference is on 17th November - all invited

- Karen O'Hanlon raised issue of pupils smoking in vicinity of school. Maria advised this issue was also raised at Community Council meeting

Action 18 - Karen Cormack to speak to senior management team to discuss issue

- Karen O'Hanlon raised issue of litter between school and Co-op and Tesco getting worse. Maria advised this too was raised at Community Council meeting. No real solution or action agreed as this issue is taken seriously within school with lots of actions already in force.

Next Meeting Monday 21st January 1900 @ Dingwall Academy