

Minutes of Dingwall Academy Parent Council Meeting 20th May 2019

The meeting opened at 7pm

1.Present : Helen Cameron (Chair), Graham Mackenzie, Karen Cormack, Karen O'Hanlon, Jill MacPherson, Paul MacPherson, Karen Anderson, Lindsay Ramsay, Sam Blyth (Treasurer), Laura Ross

2.Apologies: Emma Whitham, Steven Mackenzie

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Proposed by Jill MacPherson, seconded by Karen O'Hanlon.

3.Matters Arising:

Action 1: Sam to review our Constitution. Helen to send Sam a copy of the Constitution to facilitate this.

Action 2: Sam to ask at a Council meeting next week about the proposed change to the Easter school holidays. Any developments on this?

Action 3: Sam to give Dingwall Academy a cheque to cover the book tokens at Prize Giving.

4.Treasurer's Report:

There has been one cheque since the last report: £156 for 1st Aid at the Spring Fair.
Treasurer' Account Balance now £8519.06

5. School Update:

- Spring Fair – good but mixed results. Made less than £4000 profit as inflatables were expensive. The pop up stall and uniform exchange were successful innovations. It was noted, however, that a lot of waste was produced by the Fair. Plan for next year to have an Eco Fair to follow environmental lines. Discussion about how to facilitate this as 8 mentors would be needed for classes.

Action 4: Karen C to approach Barbara Irvine at UHI for possible student involvement as mentors for pupils. (Sustainability/Events management)

Linked in to this, Christmas Fair organisation needs to start as bookings open for tables at the start of June. PC to run Bottle Stall and BBQ but we need bodies to man these stalls, especially as Emma and Steven are standing down from PC.

Action 5: Karen C to arrange a 6th year group to get the Christmas Fair up and running.

Action 6: Karen C to put article in the Newsletter to get new people on to the Parent Council.

□ **Improvement planning-** (following on from HMI)

1. Understanding of what successful learning/ teaching looks like. Need for communication between teachers.
2. Monitoring/tracking pupil progress through the levels through time. Everything regarding this is up for change.

A discussion developed about the nature of these changes and how information may be recorded in future in a manner acceptable to HMI.

3. Wholesale changes to ASN provision and how this is going to affect pupils/staff/parents.

Confirmation that a letter did go in from us as a PC about ASN. There is no acceptance from the Council of the effect of these changes on pupils.

North and South to have PSA losses next year and it was suggested that up to 500 PSAs could be lost in the last 2 years of the 3-year rolling programme of ASN cuts.

Council is also now reducing ASN teachers by 65. This is bound to have a negative Mental Health impact on pupils/parents/staff.

“Upskilling” starting in August.

Change team is in place- 3 secondary, 2 primary representatives.

£11k has been earmarked for pupil/parent advocacy in this process (parent voice)

- CHAMPS- (Looked after children group at the school)

The group is currently working with a street artist to produce artwork for the music corridor. Calum Lynch (who was a looked after child) has been booked to speak at Prize Giving.

- Partnership with Police- Anti social behaviour and drug misuse is a community problem in all schools and there are organised crime gangs in our area. The Mid group has got together with Guidance/SMT/Police for a day to address the issues. PSE resources are out of date. A letter is going out to parents and there is to be an information night on 10th June involving the school, Police and Youth Action. There will be a sign-up sheet for a Parents support group at this event.

Alisdair Goskirk from the Police has been providing a bit more of a presence around the school following recent events.

Action 8: Karen C to arrange sign-up sheet for a parent support group to be put up at the information night.

6. Any other Business:

- Awards

(Saltire award etc) Highlife staff should collate the hours for these Awards but at the moment this is not happening. The hours can be backdated 2 years.

Action 9: Karen C to email Highlife staff regarding volunteering hours for Awards, with the backing of the PC.

- Community Involvement

Action 10: Helen to invite Jack Shepherd from the Community Council to attend a Pupil Voice meeting.

- **PE option choices for Senior pupils**

Action 11: Karen C to email Morris Dillon regarding this.

- **School roll and Staffing**

S1 and S2 are currently full. There will be 1080 pupils at the school next year. It is capped at 200 Pupils per year group.

Home Ec staffing is an issue. We are hoping for a probationer to come in.

Val Maclennan is retiring at the end of the session.

George Trimble is temporarily covering Molly Alexander's caseload until her return.

7. Date of next meeting:

September 2nd at 7pm.

This will be our AGM and first meeting of the new session.