

Dingwall Academy Parent Council  
Meeting Minutes

6th November 2017

Present

Helen Cameron, Emma Whitham, Lindsay Ramsay, Laura Ross, Mike Evans, Karen Cormack,

Apologies

Alan Stewart

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved by Lindsay Ramsay and seconded by Helen Cameron
2. Actions from previous meeting
  - Emma attended Senior Parents Night but never managed to convince any parent to sign up for an hour to help at Christmas Fair.
  - Karen confirmed that on paper Millburn Academy and Dingwall Academy have the same broadband capabilities.
3. Chromebooks
  - Millburn Academy now have their chrome books. Dingwall Academy should be issued with theirs within weeks. Karen Cormack is not sure of details and communication on subject has been limited but she has scheduled parent information nights and teacher training sessions.
4. Christmas Fair
  - Over 200 tables have been booked. The Parent Council will manage raffle, BBQ and bottle stall.
  - We need to order 500 rolls, 1000 rashers of bacon, sauces and napkins
  - Raffle prizes so far include a bike that has been donated

**Action 1** - Helen will attend 3rd/4th Year Parents Night will parent helper rota  
**Action 2** - Lindsay will attend chromebook parent session with rota  
**Action 3** - Lindsay to contact Lidl regarding rolls and bacon  
**Action 4** - Emma to follow up on rolls and bacon and order from Tesco if Lidl can't help  
**Action 5** - Helen and Emma to purchase bottle stall bottles  
**Action 6** - Emma to email Sam to find out how many raffle books we have then buy what we need  
**Action 7** - Emma to arrange a Food Assembly hamper for raffle  
**Action 8** - Helen to ask Eden Court for panto tickets  
**Action 9** - Lindsay to speak to Glen Ord Distillery, Bad Girl Bakery, Victoria Restaurant for donations  
**Action 10** - Emma to ask Red Poppy for a donation  
**Action 11** - All Parent Council members to ask their friends on Facebook to help at fair  
**Action 12** - Emma to ask Sam where Christmas Fair signs are  
**Action 13** - Emma to ask Stephen if he will put signs up ahead of fair  
**Action 14** - Karen to ask Alister if he will be Santa

5. School 10 year anniversary

A pupil steering group is now in place to plan and organise day. Parent Council reiterated commitment to help with money and people power on the day.

6. Insight Analysis

Karen Cormack asked if everyone was happy with the amount of information received regarding school performance in exams. She explained that the analysis carried out each year is very detailed and this is available to be shared with the Parent Council. It was agreed that slightly more information than is received at present would be good, including how Dingwall Academy compares to other Highland Council schools and Scotland wide. Everyone agreed that trends were more important than results from any one particular year.

#### 7. Safety of bus access

Helen Cameron raised a concern shared by a parent regarding misuse of bus only entry point to school.

**Action 15** - Karen Cormack to put a reminder to all parents in next School newsletter that the bus entry point to school car park is not for cars

#### 8. Dingwall Food Assembly

Karen Cormack gave a brief update on the successful start to the Dingwall Food Assembly and advised the school is looking to integrate this project into several areas of the curriculum, especially in the context of the employability skills and sustainability agendas.

#### 9. Sunflower Cafe

The cafe will start operating in January 2018 and the next Parent Council meeting will be held in the cafe. The cafe will be a bookable space for Dingwall Academy and Highlife Highland meetings.

#### 10. Friday half day

Dingwall Academy has gone from the earliest closing school to latest closing school. The long term plan is to align all schools. The Highland Council have advised that Dingwall Academy should remain as is for the time being, as bus contracts would need to be amended before any changes could take place.

#### 11. SNSA

The first of the new SNSA assessments will take place in November for S3 students.

Next meeting - Monday 22nd January @ 7pm