

Dingwall Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes

14th May 2018

Present

Helen Cameron, Lindsay Ramsay, Laura Ross, Gill Macpherson, Paul Macpherson, Alan Stewart, Angela Maclean, Karen Cormack, Stephen Mackenzie, Emma Whitham

Apologies

Graham Mackenzie

1. Minutes of previous meeting unavailable - last meeting was mainly to discuss duties for Spring Fair.

2. Actions from previous meeting

- All related to Spring Fair and were completed

3. Spring Fair

The event went well with many positives, including;

- 2nd Year Enterprise Ventures
- Number of parent helpers who volunteered to help on the day
- Number of people who came along and enjoyed the day
- The Food Assembly

The only negative was the inflatable service provider was disappointing and it was agreed not use the same company again. The school is currently sourcing an alternative provider. Stephen offered to share some contacts he has. Lindsay put forward the suggestion that rather than having one wristband for all, there should be a reduced priced one for smaller children and well as the full price offer. This was supported by all.

There was very positive feedback from customers regarding the quality of meat on BBQ, so it was agreed to go with Knockfarrel Produce again next year. We need to order more burgers for next year. Stephen reported that BBQ got too hot and caught fire, so he is now looking into ways to drain excess fat from BBQ whilst cooking. This will be in place by next year.

The Bottle Stall made a profit of £320 and the BBQ a profit of £501.

Action 1 - Stephen to upgrade BBQ

4. Treasurer Report

There is £8990.70 in the account. Activity since last meeting

Out - £190 Mountain Bike Level 2 Training for Liz Wilson
- £106 Liz Wilson British Cycling Fee
- £18 Sunflower Cafe for PC meeting
- £130 First Aid at Spring Fair
- £282.50 BBQ meat

In - £822.25 from Spring Fair

Laura reminded the Parent Council that we need to get a new accountant to verify accounts.

Laura reminded all that the Parent Council normally supports school prize giving. Everyone agreed to support again this year.

Action 2 - Karen to ask Jim McKinnon

Action 3 Lindsay to ask Fiona McLennan

Action 4 - Helen to write a note for next school newsletter asking for parent volunteers

5. School Uniform

As of the next academic year it will be compulsory for all S4, S5 and S6 pupils to wear a shirt and tie. This will be optional for S1, S2 and S3.

Karen will inform parents of this before the end of May.

6. Friday Closures

As of June 5th Dingwall Academy will align with all Highland High Schools and close at 1315. There will still be five periods but these will all be before lunch. Lunch will still be available for pupils until 1400. The bus time will not change until August.

Karen will inform all parents of this change before the end of May and will offer an open.

7. Volunteers

Karen highlighted the need for volunteer support and several opportunities were highlighted, including encouraging senior pupils to volunteer more, asking parents if they liked to get more involved with school, it was also suggested that the school could develop partnerships with charities that support vulnerable members of our community with social isolation and to get the idea community to volunteer with the school.

The Parent Council unanimously decided to focus the next year on increasing parental and community-wide engagement. We will start formulating an action plan at next meeting.

Action 5 - Karen to speak to Rory (HLH) and Maurice (Head of PE) to discuss ways to involve parents in school sport clubs.

Action 6 - Karen to invite Rory and Maurice to next Parent Council meeting.

8. PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment)

Helen informed all that Parent Council had been notified that Dingwall Academy has been selected to take part in PISA this year. Karen advised this isn't new and happens every year with 12 children from 1st Year randomly selected to complete assessment.

9. School Improvement Plan

Karen Cormack shared the key priorities for the school improvement plan for next session. These included ICT, Attainment, Employability, Curriculum and Support. The parent group were supportive of these areas and also agreed that Parental Engagement should be a focus for the group next session.

There was some discussion about the focus on creativity and agreement that this was a very positive area to look at.

10. Christmas Fair

There is no appetite in the Parent Council to take on the role of arranging the Christmas Fair. Emma suggested the Parent Council focus on developing and actioning a parent engagement plan this next year rather focussing too much on fundraising. The account is healthy with a balance of £8990, so fundraising not as imperative as previous years. The Parent Council unanimously agreed.

Action 7 - Helen to contact Sam to advise of Christmas Fair update and to update potential stall holders of change.

11. AOCB

- GDPR - all members present agreed for Parent Council secretary to continue to store contact details
- 10 Year anniversary - 8th June. Celebrations include 1) a short video, 2) a whole of school piece of artwork 3) a whole of school Strip the Willow 4) Ice-cream for all. The Parent Council agreed to financially support this purchase of ice cream for everyone.
- Mike informed all that the Moderator for the Free Church lives in Dingwall and encouraged the school to make contact.
- Angela shared her new experience of the Mock Courts initiative and described what a fantastic opportunity it is for schools to get involved with acting, role play, costume making and working with professionals. There will be an opportunity next year for Dingwall Academy to take part in a Mock Court event in Inverness.

Action 8 - Angels to provide further information to Karen about Mock Court initiative.

- Angela advised that Fred Lees has raised issue of Right of Way through school again. The Parent Council reminded Angela that this has been dealt with and closed. The Parent Council have historically responded to this and have no further comment to make.

Next meeting - Our AGM - Monday 17th September @ 7pm