

Dingwall Academy Parent Council

## **Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2012**

Present: K Cormack, H Thornton, P Evennett, N Greenwood, S Blyth, S Kruse, S Rea, L Ross

Apologies: D Morgan

Minutes of Meeting on 18 April 2012 accepted

Matters Arising: Blazers are coming in to school in good condition; office staff are in the process of taking them in.

Mention of a recycling scheme for lost property.

The Greenhouse will take other uniform items.

### School News:

SQA exams have started for pupils in S4, S5 and S6.

KC said that S2 pupils will undergo SOSCA testing in English, Maths & Science to check for challenge & underachievement. This consists of standardised testing compulsory for every Highland School (also taken in P5 and P7 & devised by Durham Uni). There was concern that this would turn into another 11+ exam, which is to be avoided. There is no intention to publish the results.

This is to lead to an electronic tracking and monitoring system (E1) by August, so teachers & parents can have access to where a pupil is at. This will be done with a tracking light system (Red, Amber and Green).

KC also expressed concern that some Dingwall pupils were playing in the road by the level crossing. There was talk of a game of chicken involved.

KC will send a letter out to parents, as well as a tannoy announcement.

The Pupil Council will talk to other pupils about the dangers of playing in the road.

### S1 Homework:

HT mentioned that the current S1 pupils don't seem to be getting any homework.

KC said that this matter is going to be taken care of. However, the homework is going to be different from the regular homework in primary school. Pupils need to take responsibility for personal research at home.

### Girls' Sanitary Facilities:

HT mentioned that bins are only provided in certain cubicles, not all.

KC said it is probably due to financial cuts. It will be looked into.

### Minibuses:

KC announced that the two yellow minibuses which were lent to the school whilst the playing fields were out of action have now been given to the school, free of charge.

Dingwall Academy is now in possession of three minibuses (One Blue and Two Yellow).

KC also mentioned that this means that Dingwall now has to pay for the maintenance of all three minibuses.

PE said that the £3000 given by the PC to the school for purchase of the minibuses can be used for maintenance. The school can also charge people outside the school who borrow them.

KC said that not everyone can drive the minibuses, drivers must have a special Highland Council Minibus license. The authority will pay for people to take the test for this though.

KC said that the school will get together a minibus committee, allowing the vehicles to get a weekly clean and general maintenance when needed.

### Parental Views Questionnaire:

Due to the nature of the questions in the questionnaire, the PC did not feel that they could openly discuss the answers. The questionnaire was not filled out at the meeting, but members of the PC each took the questions so that they could think about the questions thoroughly and email a direct reply themselves in their own time.

Financial Update:

LR announced that there is £1876.56 in the savings account, and £307.01 in the current account. This comes to a total of £2183.57.

KC said that with this money last year, the PC purchased book tokens for prize giving ceremony. This needs to be taken into account this year also. Usually about £200 in total, depending on the number of pupils. Minimum of £10, senior students getting more. (£210 in 2011)

Any Other Business:

NG wanted to encourage everyone to go along to the Jubilee celebrations.

On Monday 4 June there will be lunch in the high street where people are encouraged to bring a picnic (no alcohol), with bands and musicians performing. Many stalls will be in the car park.

The original plan to go to Castle Leod fell through so all of the events are in Dingwall.

It will finish with Dingwall pupils lighting the beacon. NG will put a letter together, with a competition to determine the pupils, and also to look for a few senior students to help on the day with stewarding etc.

KC mentioned that the school is closed to everyone on Monday 4 June.

Date of Next Meeting:

AGM Monday 17 September