

DAPC 25/3

Present – Heather Thornton (Chair), Alison M, Karen Cormack, Dawn Morgan, Linda Watson, Mike Evans, Nigel Greenwood, Sam Blyth, Laura Ross, Sandra Rea, Anita Munro.

Apologies – Carol Seaton, Councillor Angela Maclean ,Councillor Graeme Mackenzie

Minutes from last meeting accepted.

Matters arising

KC- No Valentines disco tickets sold. Next time, a different occasion may prove more successful.

HT – Thanks to all who helped with the east egg tombola. £175 raised. Next term there will be a bake sale to fundraise, after study leave. The date for the bake sale will be set later. Susan Swallow was pleased with the parental involvement.

Curriculum Structure

KC – Authorities have visited all the schools, interviewing them. 26/29 Highland secondary have indicated that they are moving to a 6 subject option for the Senior Phase. Option forms are have now been returned for S2 – S5. There is now an additional year group required to go through the option process and this is placing additional pressure on a staff at an already busy time. There is real concern that the quality of information provided to pupils and parents is being compromised as a result. This year staff were required to complete reports and attend parent evenings for 4 year groups within the space of a month. This timeline will have to be revised for next session and may result in a move away from the traditional end of term reports. The school is committed to moving forward with the Highland Steer.

Reports

KC – Last year the quality of reports was very high and had received many positive reports from parents. This year there wasn't enough time to apply the same level of checking to reports and so the quality of the reports in some cases compromised. Next session the parent council will be involved in helping to decide the format for the school reports. In future years parents may be access report information electronically.

LW - Some reports from teachers were copied and pasted to each pupil. Parents are not getting an actual reflection of their child's progress.

KC - Need to decide timing of parents evening and reports. They don't have to be side by side, one could be in the middle of the year and one at the end.

Parental Questionnaire

KC - This questionnaire for self-evaluation will go to all parents after Easter. It is modelled on the questionnaire from HMI but this one only has 10 questions.

CfE..... Sam Blyth gave a report from the recent meeting she attended, focusing on concerns within Highland region. Below is a brief summary of the discussion at our PC meeting.

- SB- Some schools are unhappy with the limit to 6 subjects. Highland council are limited in what they can do with schools who do not move to a 6 subject option. S3 – some schools do 7 subjects, some do 10. Still some uncertainty and variation in University Entrance requirements. CfE doesn't necessarily offer higher achieving pupils backtrail of paperwork ie achievement in S4. UCAS remain in discussion with Universities to try and standardised entry requirements.
- KC At the end of S3 pupils have to make a profile to summarise their learning. Some smaller schools are now struggling to deliver core curriculum.
- SB - Real concern over 6 subjects. Many parents want to change it to more subjects.
- KC- N4 and N5 require 160 hours – this only allows 6 subjects in one year.
- SB- Callum McSween said there would be room for movement on the 6th subject for the more able pupils. There has been discussion on introducing life skills to S6
- KC- More vocational courses, life skills courses would be something the school would welcome however current staffing formula makes this very difficult.
- SB- Overhaul strategies for p7-s1. Strengthen the link. Academy teachers go to primaries. Staffing problems again.
- KC- Primaries schools welcomed transition projects – however they do have to be co-ordinated so that primary schools are not asked to do too many projects.
- SB- Concern with S4/5/6 sharing classes and the effect it will have on exam results.
- KC- There will be a senior phase but it does not always mean S4/5/6 together in the same class. The present system has S5/6 working together with few difficulties.

Fijitsu

- KC- Wi-Fi system purchased when moved into school, Fijitsu have disabled it due to a security issue. The Wi-Fi in the building is restricted to registered machines.
- SB- Primary wanted to add laptops. Fijitsu took away machines. £100 per laptop to put on the system. Same for academy.
- KC- Co-writer programme (for kids with disabilities) was purchased but recently taken off the system. Quote for refreshing it was 3 times as much as the original price.
- SB- The primary deaf base and gaelic departments were waiting for 9 months for software to be updated.
SB suggested we call council in for a meeting with academy and invite primary parent council.
- Invite Carol Ritchie , Ron Mackenzie, Chair of primary council, Mario DiCarlo. Depending on when the next ASG meeting is, communication could be put out through them.

Footpath Tarvie

- HT- email received – report identified problems. The cost of a footpath would be too much. Providing transport instead, from August. Transport officer will contact soon with details of the contractor. Where the bus has to stop, it can't pull in so the kids are dropped at the side of the road. In August the kids will either get a taxi from their home to the bus, or all the way to school. Sent email to Tracy to explain what's happening.

Finance

- LR - cheque account - £1502.30
deposit account - £1877.36
payment from giving machine - £15.25
- HT - Susan Swallow has to do two fundraisers and write a report, we can make a donation once the bake sale has been done.
- KC- £7500 roughly raised so far by 6th years. They aim for £10,000 before they leave school. £300 to the gardeners would be reasonable.
- HT- £500 donated to Teenage Cancer Trust from the parent council.

Other business

- KC- Fundraising –
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| Red Nose Day | £2200 |
| 1 st year slide-a-thon | £800 |
| World Challenge | £3000 |
| Model Show | £1700 |
- ME- Highlands and Islands enterprise
parent teachers app. 75p per pupil. Parents can book appointments for parents evening.
Teachers can comment.

Next meeting – Monday 20th May – 7.00 pm.