

Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minutes 23rd October 2023

Present:

Sam Blyth	Karen Cormack	Karen O'Hanlon	Kerry Webb
Gill Macpherson	Susan Crookes	John Tompkins	Paul Macpherson
Ruaraidh Macmillan	Cllr Graham Mackenzie	Cllr Margaret Paterson	John MacDonald

1. Apologies: Hilary Cameron, Nicola Wojtunik, Cllr Angela MacLean
2. Minutes from previous meeting approved by Gill and seconded by Kerry
3. Matters arising:
 - Insight Data (full SQA analysis) – KC offered to go through this with KOH – include as part of 'induction meeting'. **ACTION: KOH to liaise with Karen C**
4. Headteacher's Report
 - Special Assemblies for S2 to S6 in school earlier in the day in memory of Mrs MacLennan incorporated music composed by Mrs MacLennan and gifted/presented to school. Karen C asked the Parent Council to write her husband and family. School will consider a lasting memorial. **ACTION: Karen OH to organize letter**
 - Staffing – are judged as being fully staffed but allocation is an ongoing challenge. In addition, recruitment is a challenge, particularly in some areas eg home economics. Will also have 2 maternity leaves to cover over the coming months. ASN staffing is also hugely challenging.
 - Autism provision in the school is for the wider mid-ross area. Suggestion that Parent Council might want to learn more about this at a future meeting: **Action Karen OH and Karen C**
 - 3rd years are taking 7 subjects and mental health wellbeing award (Level 4/5). Modern Languages for Life and Work (Level 4) has also been replaced with Scottish Studies (Level 4/5). The latter is proving popular with youngsters and brings total # of subjects to 9.
 - National review of the curriculum is underway.
 - School uniform – important that no youngsters are disadvantaged. Trying to address equity in other areas too such as sports, travel etc.
 - Mini bus – securing drivers remains challenging, particularly as fewer teachers have the required certification. **ACTION: Graham to ask about HC buses and whether these would be a more cost-effective option.**
 - Attendance – directly linked to attainment. Target is 90%. First monthly reports shared with parents at the end of last term.
 - Expenditure – are beginning to replace whiteboards and projectors. Rolling programme in place ~£2K each.
 - Malicious damage – levels are generally low; however stairwells and toilets can be problematic. CCTV to be installed in stairwells and in the corridors where toilets are located.
 - Vaping – just in the last year have seen normalization in vaping across the school. Suggestion that info should be sent home to parents, parents encouraged to discuss with their youngsters etc: **ACTION: Karen OH and Karen C to discuss with a view to follow up activity being pursued.**
5. Treasurer's Report – Cheque Account balance £3,085.35 and savings £79.44. Audit of accounts is in hand.
6. Christmas Fair:
 - Booking closed for stalls – 130 booked
 - Raffle prizes being chased by Kerry. **ACTION: Sam to share info on Bellandrum tickets with Kerry**
 - Agreed that one book of tickets to be go home with each youngster w/b 6th Nov. Sold or unsold tickets to be returned. Suggestion of dress down day. **ACTION: Karen OH to get tickets printed and delivered to school for 6th Nov.**
 - Promotion – **ACTION: Karen C to look for 3 banners (and Santa costume)**
 - Promotion – **ACTION: Sam to organize or share info on paid Facebook ad and other marketing – Newspapers, Radio etc.**

- Meeting with House Captains scheduled for after school on 30th Oct'23
7. Fund raising – sensory garden plans have stalled. Any proposals for funding will need to be discussed and agreed by the Parent Council Committee. Karen C offered to ask the Leadership Team for ideas. Sam suggested something vocational, perhaps a workshop? **ACTION: Karen C to discuss with Leadership Team.**
8. AOB
- Gambling harms – link to presentation to be shared **ACTION: Karen OH/Karen C**
 - Margaret Paterson expressed concern over the amount of traffic speeding on High Street whilst it was busy with youngsters on their lunch break. **ACTION: Margaret and Graham to raise this with HC once more**
 - Draft constitution to be circulated for comments **ACTION: Karen OH**

Date of next meeting: Monday 22/01/24 on Teams

Draft