

INVERGORDON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 26.02.08 AT 19.00HRS
CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Present

Mr Jim Steven, Councillor Maxine Smith, Miranda Moodie, Emily Wilson, Victor Karpozis, Hilary Peters, Julia Entwistle, Tatiana Tsarmaklis, Catherine Richmond, Andrew Pennington, Christine Sutherland, Norma Higgott, Ian Higgott, Christopher Godley, Ann-Marie Wallis

Welcome

Catherine Richmond welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to Emily Wilson who is a Pupil Council Representative.

Apologies

Dierdre Bews, Councillor Martin Rattray, Robert Dineneen, Daveen Dinneen

Adoption of Minutes and matters arising from Minutes

The Minutes of 27.11.07 were adopted.

Appointment of Secretary

Christine Sutherland Proposed by Catherine Richmond and
Seconded by Andrew Pennington

Pupil Council – Emily Wilson

- Help with extra curricular activities. Discussion identified that help was needed with the Senior Football Team. It was proposed that a way forward would be to ask parents off the football team members to become involved. A request will be put into the School Newsletter and Website asking for parents/volunteers.

Child protection issues and Disclosures were discussed. (Anyone wishing to Attend Child Protections Courses – Maxine will advise).

Disclosures would be completed for all who wish to be involved.

Mr Steven brought to our attention the Health and Safety issues regarding the Drivers of the Mini Bus – The present drivers are now required to pass another driving test for driving the school minibus!

- Sports Fields – Dog Fouling
There should not be any dogs on the Sports Fields – these are a recreation area and therefore dogs are banned.
The Janitors are going to get new chains to lock the gates.
Councillor Smith will try to get signs “No Dogs Allowed” and have these displayed.
? Enlist the help of the Community Wardens and or Dog Warden.

- School Travel Plan

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The School Travel Report was done by a Consultancy Agency, Highland Council and involved a steering group from Invergordon Academy. The report published recommendations Pg 38-41 and these need to be addressed. There was input from many members. It was suggested by Catherine Richmond that a sub-group of the Parent Council was formed to look at these issues and to access funding to try and meet some of the recommendations.

1. Sub-group:- Councillor Maxine Smith and Catherine Richmond. Maxine will contact Miss Drew of the Steering Group. A meeting will be set up and a member of the Police will be invited to join.

Other Initiatives were discussed

1. Encourage walking/cycling to school – Health Awareness
2. “Park and Stride”- Possible Pilot of a Park and Stride scheme. Involve the Police and encourage partnership with parents to achieve a car free zone outside the school and turning area. “Park and Stride” could be incorporated with “Health Week”.
3. Lift sharing.
4. Secure bicycle storage and facilities – More pupils would use their cycles to get to and from school.
5. Bus turning area and the dangers there – Maxine to involve the relevant department at Highland Council.
6. Cycle paths – Finance a problem.
7. Pavements between Leisure Centre and Fish Meal Plant
Pupils to draw pavement route by Isobel Rhind centre on a map and will give to Maxine to take forward with TEC services.
8. Paths and routes used by pupils – The path through the Tank Farm is dangerous. This is contaminated ground. Bannermans are the owners of the land. Possible further discussion with Bannermans re: adequate pathway or fence all round.

School – Mr Steven

New website is up and running. In future all Departments at the school will use the website. Improve communication. Parent Council Meetings, Agenda's and Minutes will be available. Archive system is being sought for the future. It was noted that 3 years ago 25% of parents had email – this will be looked at again as hopefully there are a greater number who have access to email. In the school there are 325 computers for 400 plus pupils – an excellent ratio.

- Budget

£1.5 Million. – Large part for Staffing
Allocated on a formula basis.

Every Year there has been a “Re-Configuration” – a cut in Budget of £50,000.

This Year – **3% cut in staffing – equates to 1.25 Teachers £40,000 cut.**

10% cut in cleaning services – No “Deep Clean” this year.

Administration – No replacements if anybody leaves

Music Tuition up from **£30 to £40**

School Meals raised by 10pence

SEN Budgets reduced despite an increase in requirement

Janitors - Do we have 1 or 2?

Corporate saving 10% Fuel Bills – despite increase in fuel costs

Not all-bad news!!! Mr Steven has invested in the fabric of the building over the years and now planning to look at "Extras" for the pupils.

Placement requests attract additional funding. 20% of pupils at Invergordon are placement requests – There may be some impact on this where parents opt for the New Dingwall Academy.

HMI – Possibly the 1st Term after the Summer Holidays – Financial management now comes into HMI Inspection.

-Curriculum for Excellence

A handout was distributed to all members of the Parent Council.

There is to be significant change in Education. The purposes of education are to enable all young people to become

- Successful learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective Contributors.

Two Websites for further details are:-

www.acurriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk

www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk

Finance/Treasurers Report

Bank Account is open.

Awaiting Parent Council Finance from Highland Council £564.69

Correspondence

Application forms for Parent Council Funding – Have been completed and submitted

AOCB

Mr Steven requested for the next meeting that the Agenda include the PSE (Personal and Social Education) Program that covers the subject of Sexual Health, Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th May 2008 at 19.00hrs in the Conference Room at the Academy

Meeting was closed at 20.20hrs