

INVERGORDON ACADEMY  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
Conference Room  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 at 19.00hrs

Hilary Peters chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Present**

Jim Steven, Sandy McGregor, Chris Godley, Lesley Sanderson, Tina McCafferey, Andrew Pennington

**Apologies**

Catherine Richmond (Attending Ski-Trip meeting- will attend later), Norma Higgot, Deidre Bews, Councillor Maxine Smith, Councillor Martin Rattray, Anne-Marie Wallis, Tatiana Tsarmaklis, Lorraine Carson, Julia Entwistle, Miranda Moodie

**Adoption of Minutes and matters arising from Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM and the first meeting after the AGM held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were adopted.

**Councillors Report**

Apologies had been received from both Councillor Smith and Rattray.

Both councillors work closely with the Parent Council and both are available to deal with any issues that the Parent Council or the School Senior Management Team has that require Highland Councillor input.

**School Matters**

- New Staffing formula. There is a tight hold on finance. £17,000 set aside each year, but it is going to be removed from the budget either this year or next. Mr Steven thinks that it might well be this year, however, although this is happening the school is okay as regards staffing.
- There are a smaller number of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year pupils this year. 40 pupils in total.
- -Linda, (Janitor) is retiring in July this year.  
-Mr Ian Milliken is retiring but will stay on until October.  
-Mr Maxwell (Chemistry Teacher) is leaving after 16 years of service at the Academy to teach in Tabitha school in Israel.  
Mr Kenny Nicol is being appointed to the chemistry position.

These members of staff are an asset to Invergordon Academy and will be a big loss.

- Home Economics can be run 1.6 WTE teacher hours
- There are 2 Music teachers and this must be reduced to 1
- The children's Social Worker is absent due to illness and the knock-on effect of this situation is being felt by the school. The post has been advertised.
- The school reception area is being changed. It is hoped that Mrs Robson will accept the new post of Head of Reception. Mark Kelman (6<sup>th</sup> year pupil) is currently helping in reception and doing an excellent job.

- The first survey handed out to all parents at the parent meeting will enable the school to receive feedback on how the school is performing from the parent's point of view and thus enable the school to act accordingly.

Catherine Richmond joined the meeting at 19.45hrs.

- Discussion about the format of prize giving and possible changes. Members present felt that it was important to continue to recognise academic and sporting achievement but also to add other prizes for other contributions and achievements not only within the school setting but out of school where pupils are being recognised for other skills and attributes.  
Views are being sought from Pupils, Parents and Parent Council.
- -Mr McGregor spoke about how "achievement" is being recognised in both primary and secondary schools.  
Rebecca Raynes and Robert Dinneen are to attend a meeting in Edinburgh regarding achievement, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.  
-The P7 pupils of the 4 Feeder schools will be using camcorders to record achievement and the transition to the Academy and subsequent reflection when they are attending the academy.  
Michael Aitchison is to use Yacapaca where the pupils will be able to store their own information and will also be able to access this information when they leave school.  
The programme is to be installed and initially 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will use the programme.  
-Monies are available to the associate schools group. £6,000 and £2,500

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Opportunity to attend "Developing partnerships between parents and schools" in Aberdeen on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 – Mr Steven to attend
- Parent Council Newsletter Jan 2009 from the National Parental Involvement Co-ordinator.
- History of Invergordon Historical Booklets:- Catherine would like to know how many copies that the History department would like to receive for pupils.

### **AOCB**

- Breakfast Club – Excellent facility
- Access via the Tank Farm by pupils and the dangers therein, however, very difficult to get pupils to stop this practice.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009  
at 19.00hrs  
Conference Room at the Academy**

Meeting closed at 20.30hrs