

# **INVERALLOCHY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017**

Attended: Fiona Edwards (Head Teacher), Michael Tait, Julie Stephen, Sarah Duthie, Claire Buchan, Alison Tait, Lynsey Gammack, Donna Pesic, Diane Sim, Sarah Ritchie, Cllr Charles Buchan

Apologies: Cllr Brian Topping, Cllr Doreen Mair, Cllr Andy Kille, Fiona McKinstry, Jane Campbell, Karen Johnston

## **1. Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising**

Donna welcomed everyone. There were no comments on the minutes from the last meeting. Donna passed on Ann Marie Taylor's thanks for the card and flowers from the Parent Council on her leaving her role at the school. Alison passed on apologies from those who were unable to attend the meeting. She also mentioned that Marnie Laird had passed on to another Parent Council member that she regretted she was unable to attend future meetings due to other commitments.

## **2. Questions/suggestions for Head Teacher**

There was nothing in the suggestion box, and no-one asked any questions or made suggestions.

## **3. Head Teacher report**

There was no October School newsletter. In the November School newsletter there will be a link for parents to look at Questions and Answers about the National Standardised Assessments.

There were over 40 applicants for the role of Admin Support at the School office. Lynsey was appointed and started this week.

There are now 3 students and a volunteer in the School Nursery. Elisa West is there on Mondays and Tuesdays, Linda Buchan on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Claire Michie on Fridays and Sharon Baxter on Thursdays.

The School applied for Invercairn Gala funds for extra flutes as there are not enough for everyone who wants to play and this would also benefit the local community. Invercairn Gala is paying for 10 more flutes for the School.

The Flute Band is looking forward to the Christmas concert. This year the School is moving away from the traditional Christmas concert and is doing an Aladdin pantomime. The Nursery children are not taking part in the evening concert as it is too late for them but they will be doing a performance one afternoon and that will be filmed and shown at the evening concert.

The Parents night was well attended. The Big Conversation's responses taken on that evening have been passed on to Maria Walker (Aberdeenshire Council's Director of Education and Children's Services).

The areas within the playground have been marked where the picnic benches will be located.

The upcoming in-service days will have James Nottingham speaking on "The Learning Pit". It will cover matters such as resilience and growth mindset. There will also be training on DYW (Developing Young Workforce).

A Careers Workshop Fayre should be taking place in this area for Primary 5 and 6 pupils. The School has already had some people in speaking to classes about their occupation e.g. a doctor, a nurse and a scientist.

Donna asked if there will be forms going out to relevant parents giving them the option to buy their own flutes. Fiona said there would be. Donna also mentioned that they had 10 new flutes at their church which the School could borrow if required. Fiona mentioned that the flutes bought by the Gala will have stickers on them saying they were bought by the Gala,

#### **4. Any other business**

Cllr Buchan asked how the Pupil Equity Fund was coming on. Fiona noted that extra PSA hours had been implemented at the school. The Coastal Classrooms had been very successful and the School would aim to fund this next year. The online reading programme for particular children was going

well. Also there had been too much planned, so some things had not got off the ground. Michael asked how the School could target the disadvantaged with the funding. Fiona indicated that she is aware who they are. Fiona also noted that those benefiting from the Pupil Equity Fund would include those who had an attainment gap as well as the disadvantaged.

Michael asked Cllr Buchan if there was anything the Parent Council can do to help retain the visiting specialist teachers. Cllr Buchan has advocated for their retention. Their retention has been promised by Aberdeenshire Council until the end of the session (end of term in July 2018). Michael noted that the new Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks in these areas were of a high standard for Primary Schools and these requirements should be properly resourced. Cllr Buchan noted that pupils will get more out of these specialist subjects if they are taught by specialists. Cllr Buchan noted that the Parent Council had the option of writing to Aberdeenshire Council about the retention of the visiting specialists.

Diane asked if Primary 4 pupils were getting swimming lessons. Fiona indicated that they were and that the Pupil Equity Fund was paying for the bus. Cllr Buchan mentioned that one school's local rotary club subsidises buses to swimming lessons.

Alison advised that she emailed Bob Jones of NPFS (National Parent Forum of Scotland) advising him of her email address as Secretary for future correspondence. He had advised us to revisit having a generic email address for the Parent Council even if it's for things like NPFS updates or contacting other Parent Councils. Alison also noted that we appear to be the only Parent Council on the NPFS mailing list without a generic email address. It was agreed that Alison would go ahead and set one up.

Alison advised that the Parent Council Insurance via the SPTC (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) had already been set up before her appointment as Secretary and wanted to check that the standard membership purchased by our local authority was sufficient for our purposes. She read out from the SPTC correspondence four scenarios where a Parent Council should upgrade to enhanced membership for a £20 charge. It was agreed that the standard membership was sufficient.

**Future meeting dates: Wednesdays 17 January 2018, 14 March 2018, 16 May 2018**

**Fundraising Meetings at 6.30pm (17 January 2018 Fundraising Meeting cancelled unless matters arise to be discussed)**

**Parent Council Meetings at 7pm**