

S1 DAPC Meeting 28/1

Present – Heather Thornton (Chair), Stephen Mackenzie, Sam Blyth, Gary Kerr, Nigel Greenwood, Sandra Rea, Laura Ross(Treasurer), Anita Munro, Carol Seaton, Dawn Morgan, Karen Cormack, Cllr Graham Mackenzie, Linda Watson(Secretary).

Apologies – Alison Macleod, Angela Maclean.

Minutes of last meeting(19th November 2012).

HT apologised for the late distribution of minutes, Linda had only received recently .Unless any major discrepancies, it was suggested that these are accepted as they are, due to time lapse since meeting.

Matters Arising

- KC – S1 homework. English/Maths/Languages workshop on 12th March. S1 Parents are to be invited to this.
- S3/4 Valentine Disco will be on Thursday 21st February, 7:30 – 9:30. Parent Council volunteers required for toilet duty and refreshments. School will order in refreshments.
- HT - Young Enterprise Group. The lead teacher has been given Mike's contact details

Curriculum Structure

- KC – Highland Steer document has been put to all schools. This confirms the requirement for 1st/2nd/3rd year to experience a broad general education. Pupils will get some options at the end of 2nd year but these will be within curriculum areas. Pupils will then choose six subjects for 4th year. These will be the exam subjects.
S4/5/6 will be called the senior phase, this may involve some classes having pupils from difference year groups. It will allow pupils to follow courses appropriate to their ability rather than their age.
This will start with the current S2s. They will make 9 subject choices into S3, and 6 into S4. Current S3 and S4 will still sit Highers in 5th/6th year.
Universities have been fully involved with Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and Aberdeen University are the first to issue a statement. A summary of the Highland Steer and a copy of the Aberdeen Statement will be sent to PC members.
The University standard remains Highers at the end of S5.

Gardening

- KC - Susan Swallow is now able to offer RHS courses to senior pupils. She has applied to various schemes for funding and she needs to be able to demonstrate parental involvement. A presentation has been prepared that can be made available for PC members. Parental involvement could range from helping in classes to helping out at weekends.
- HT - This is something that could go in the newsletter.
- KC - The senior option form also has RHS choices on it.
- SM - Can help out with forestry.

School Handbook

The format of the new handbook was discussed and KC asked that people write down their comments and hand them into school/email them to her within a fortnight.

Road Safety

KC said the bus crash incident was handled really well by staff, pupils and bus driver. The gritting by the ring road is the councils responsibility. GM has spoken to the road manager and also to Ron Mackenzie. The gritters main priority is the ring road but they won't come up and grit the Academy. GM suggested that as they drive through the school after gritting the sport centre car park, they could quite easily grit the Academy car park and bus bay also. KC mentioned that Morrisons are willing to pay for the grit. The school janitors can't physically get around and grit everywhere. HT said that a safety visit has been done but a report hasn't yet been issued about the footpath at Tarvie. GM is hopeful that something will be in place in time for the new academic year.

Clean-Up Project

KC thanked everyone who helped out. The schools' target number of tokens was 1100 and they managed to collect 1700. The school will get £750 for an environmental project and pupils also received individual prizes. Some concern expressed about the unhealthy prizes. Senior students who were involved are now looking at future projects. Parent council keen to be involved in this. It was suggested that the parent council could help financially.

Fijitsu

KC will detail the concerns of the school and send to LW who will put together a letter.

Finance

£1507.05 current account

£1877.16 deposit account

AOCB

KC – Morrisons has always handled the opening and closing of the school and have been present in the building when outside lets are in. From now on letting arrangements will be handled by Highlife Highland staff at Dingwall Leisure Centre – this will also involve them being in the school during evenings and weekends. There is a considerable amount of detail regarding this changeover that still needs to be resolved.

KC mentioned that pupils are hosting a model exhibition (tractors and trailers) on 16th March.

Next meeting – Monday 25th March, 7.00 pm.