

Wick High School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 20 January 2020

Present: Dr Grant, Grant Mackenzie, Iain Baikie, Karen Sandison, Kerry Gunn, Colleen Pellow, Eric Baijal, Laura Harper, Allan Farquhar, Julia Budge, Andrew Skene, Samantha Manson, Paula Fraser,

Apologies: Claire Mackay, Shirley Macleod, Maureen Forbes, Anja Skene

Welcome

Chairperson Iain Baikie opened the meeting and welcomed all to our first meeting of 2020.

The first item on agenda tonight will be a Dragons Den which is an opportunity for school groups to make a pitch asking PC for help with funding to bring their ideas forward.

Two groups of pupils from WHS Inventors Club and WHS Textile Club came along with teachers Chris Aitken and Mollie Swanson and each group gave a short presentation of their chosen projects.

Both presentations were delivered well and after discussion it was unanimously agreed to give £500 to Inventors Club via Chris Aitken who will decide how to spend it and £250 to textile club for their project. PC are keen to be involved in helping with WHS projects.

Action: Cheques will be forwarded to above clubs as soon as possible

Secondment Position

Dr Grant informed the PC she had been appointed to a secondment position within Highland Council focused on leading improvements in pedagogy, culture and 3-18 provision. Dr Grant will not start in this role until her replacement is identified. The replacement will be to cover the period of secondment and will be temporary. The PC questioned if present deputies could cover the post or will it be advertised. Dr Grant felt the best advice on this matter would be to get in touch with Alison Donald, HC Area Quality Improvement Manager for Staffing for whom she will provide an e-mail address

Action: IB will email Alison Donald to find out what HC are planning to do to cover this period of secondment.

Head Teacher's Report

Dr Grant then gave her report to the PC.

1. The school roll for August 2020 will be 700 +.
2. At present the school has 45 teachers this is 1 over quota which is a good position to be in, funding for this post comes from supply budget.

3. Last year there was an embargo on spending by HC, savings were made and the school received back £67,000, each faculty has been given £8000 to get additional books, supplies etc. Carpet tiles are to be replaced by lino in the canteen at a cost of £20,000, permission for this spend given through Health & Safety as floor has not been able to be properly cleaned for the past 3 years.
4. Curriculum – draft choice form will be ready for February. In 3rd year – 8 choices, if specially interested 3 sciences will be available to choose. 4th year – 6 choices and 5th year – 5 choices.
5. More youth groups will be involved in the school on a regular basis.

ASN

The Rector spoke of the difficulties faced in recruiting staff in ASN department, too many cuts have already been made and it is felt by staff that their jobs in this area are not valued.

Dr Grant then went on to talk about “Childs Plan” which is a 32-page document staff have to complete for every child in this department. The time spent on this would be better used working with the child. A document is needed but not the length it is at present, and should be unlinked from funding.

The Rector feels that a complete shake up is required in ASN it should be revisited and refunded properly in the correct places with funding fairly allocated to needs of pupils. The way forward is to train young people to be more independent and give them the necessary skills for this.

More cuts are forecasted this year and PC can react to this after report is published.

Easter Fayre/Fundraising

Unfortunately, the likely date of the Easter Fayre is too close to the Science Festival which will be held in the school that month. June was thought to be a better month to hold a Summer Fayre/Open Day as this is end of school year and information stands would also be in attendance as well as the usual fund-raising activities.

Action: PF and SM will organise a meeting regarding the above to go ahead. They will ask pupils from Pupil Council to come on board with this. They will speak to Siony Bunch who has a blue print from previous open days at the school for any help she can give.

Bus Accident

It was brought up by KG on behalf of SM that the parents of a pupil who was injured by a bus turning at the drop off point have still not received a report on the incident which was promised by HC. The parents feel the accident has been “brushed under the carpet” by HC. The Rector has not received any more information on this from HC.

The design for traffic management at this area is not working and pupils themselves walk over paths and roads with no consideration for drivers.

Action: It was unanimously voted by a show of hands that the parent of the pupil who was involved in the above incident should be invited to the next meeting of the PC to see if any help and advice could be given.

Stakeholders Meeting

AF gave a report from the last meeting of Stakeholders which he attended.

The layout of the boulevard has given reason for concern, during the operational phase issues have come to surface but HC has not reacted.

While the contractors are happy with quality of school, issues such as ventilation problems, roof etc. do remain an issue with stakeholders.

Community access to sports field and running track -not used. HC know about the difficulties of access regarding elevation, ramp is needed. Pupils at present have to walk roughly 12 minutes to get there so lose about 25 minutes out of a 55-minute PE lesson.

Action: IB will send a communication to Donna Manson asking for a Freedom of Information Request, and will write to Nicola Sturgeon regarding the issues and explaining how difficult access to these areas are and how a ramp is vitally required. More publicity for this issue needed; ex. Press & Journal might be willing to run an article.

PC inviting parents to discuss in detail Health & Safety document for car park. Drop of Zone is not a parking space. Ice – who is responsible for gritting roads in car park area?

Boulevard – shared footpaths for cyclists and pedestrians: is this a positive idea.

Action: PF will ask Parent Council at Noss primary for their comments on shared footpath.

A Risk Assessment will then be forwarded to Stakeholders Group.

AOB

IB intimated his thanks to Maureen for taking the minutes at our previous meeting and to Amanda at WHS for all her work regarding OSKR.

IB has complained to Bank of Scotland regarding the process of transferring signatories on the cheque book. Hopefully this can be sorted out as soon as possible.

The meeting finished tonight at 21.05 and IB thanked everyone for their attendance.

Next Meeting will be on **Monday 9th March** at 7pm in Wick High School.

