

Wick High School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held on 28th March 2019

Present: Dr Grant (Rector), Grant Mackenzie (Depute Rector), Paula Fraser (Vice Chairperson), Anderina Cass, Maureen Forbes, Karen Sandison, Colleen Pellow

Apologies: Capt. Richard Otley (Chairperson) Arlene Farquhar, Katrina Cormack, Donna Plowman

The Rector opened the meeting tonight. The first item was an account from Zurich Insurance for £140 for public liability, which parent councils are responsible for paying from the grant allocated to them. Signatures on the WHS Parent Council cheque book have to be changed before any payments can be made.

Action: Grant Mackenzie will find out from the bank the best way to go about this change.

The Rector then informed us that the position of Depute Rector at Wick High School has now been filled. The successful applicant was Mr S Sandeki who will take up his duties shortly. The Rector also thanked our two WHS Parent council members, Colleen Pellow and Karen Sandison who sat on the interview panel.

Family Learning: This is a new concept Wick High School is bringing in to help pupils and parents get the most from their time in High School. It will encourage parents to come into school and help their child with their learning. Parents would find out more about the curriculum, course information, resources, books and assessment folios. Maybe parents who are at present are not engaging with the school could be invited to come in and help their child with cooking or woodworking classes? Inviting parents in to be part of a lesson e.g. critical essay writing would help parents understand what is needed and how to get information that would help their child. It was suggested that an on-line planner could be added to the website so parents could log in to see what homework is needed and when it has to be handed in.

Youth workers are at present trying to involve parents and families. WHS Parent Council thought it would be easier to get P7 parents involved as many P7 pupils are worried about coming to High School and parents would have faces to names of teachers involved with their child. It would also be a good opportunity for parents to ask any questions and know what is expected of their child in High School.

This has given the school many ideas to get this up and running.

Action: The Rector will check to see if there is a programme that would allow parents to check homework on the website and date it is required.

ASN: An email was read out to the Parent Council which was sent by a concerned parent regarding the councils plan to reduce the budget for ASNs and reduce PSA roles in the school.

WHS Parent Council felt that immediate action was needed as cuts are planned and there is a lot of concern on the impact of the pupils.

WHS Parent Council decided the best plan of action would be to send a letter outlining their worries to local councillors, local press and Highland Council.

Action: We will request our Chairperson with the help of the School Parent Council to word such a letter.

UNICEF AWARDS – Looking after the school community

A sheet compiled by pupil council members from 2nd year to 6th year was handed out. The sheet was the pupil's thoughts on rights and responsibilities from reading school policies on classroom standards and bullying. They put down their rights but also the responsibilities that come with the rights. They learn standards that are expected in classrooms - pupils have ownership and pupils and staff agree what is needed in class.

A survey was done on Red Critter Awards – pupils were asked what rewards would motivate them. They put forward ideas that vouchers could be awarded for the winner each month and a class trip at the end of the year for the class with the most points.

At the moment Red Critter awards are for great work, homework, conduct, co-operation and classwork. Discussion to take place whether awards will be added for sports and non SQA. Maybe trophies and medals could also be an option in the future.

Parents can check this on the website – more publicity is needed so parents know what good things are happening in the school.

The meeting closed tonight at 8.20pm and the date for the next meeting will be Tuesday 14th May at 7pm.