|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Fortrose Academy Parent Council**  **Minutes of Meeting held 17th January 2018** | | |
|  | **Present**  Donnie Mackenzie (Rector), Jacquie Ross (Dep) Val Paterson (Dep), Barbara Gray, Jo-Anne Pugh, Lisa Fox, Patrick Fox, Joe Hallwood, Ellen Addison, Stephen Hudson, Andrew Rowlands, Martin Kelly, Julie Baird, Craig Fraser (Cllr), Shona Bowman, Denis Torley (Crom Chair), Teddy Reeves (6th year), | **ACTION** |
| **1.** | **Apologies**  Muir Morton, Sara Johnson, Anne McMichael, Roger McMichael, Gareth Davies, Julie Davidson, Jon Greenhowe (Nth Kessock), Gordon Adam (Cllr), Jenny Hallwood, Jillian Munro |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes approved** |  |
| **3.** | **Rector’s report**  Budgetary situation - HC crisis needing to cut £26m again in this coming year. Decision to be made mid February. Until then DM can’t comment. Certainly DM sees no wiggle room to cut any more teaching staff.  **Snow conditions**  Physics, Business Studies and Modern Studies prelims all being rescheduled for next Monday due to bus cancellations 17/1  **Dr J Pettegrew** - ran a very successful talk to S6’s about importance of 6th year. Thanks to Jo-Anne for organising.  **Building works** - Morrison’s have the contract and work has now started on shower blocks. Will be finished 1st week of May.  **Google classroom** - not currently in school improvement plan. Not priority due to teacher training time. Lisa to contact parent who enquired and explain that if any information is required regarding curriculum content for any subject, they should contact the school.  **Staffing** - DM to step down end of summer term 2018. Thanks to him for working closely with PC. |  |
| **4** | **Feedback from PC**   1. **Primary school shared teacher plan** -Dennis Torley from Cromarty PC attended. He explained that there is still a lot of ‘opaqueness’ concerning the clustering of Cromarty/Resolis/Culbokie school. It is not what was recommended by the current heads and their staff. Maybe budgetary decision? How will it impact transitioning to Fortrose? He asked if we can ‘make a noise’ and support their cause before decision made mid-February. Paper for the people to be written mid-March. Concerned that teachers will leave if this goes ahead, despite Principal teacher/depute head deal.   Asks Fortrose PC to Speak to Jim Steven/Derek Martin and to ask for evidence that it will provide the best outcome. (Doesn’t seem to be any.) Also, to provide Dennis with contacts who have been through similar situation (Farr?)  b**) HPCP**  Lisa and Joe attended the HPCP conference in December. Questions to John Swinney left with little opportunity for follow-up, nor were there many opportunities for direct approaches to council officials. LF frustrated that we still are not automatically getting email addresses from new parents despite numerous times of asking. Good to keep attending HPCP meetings and keeping up with their agenda.  **c) Parental participation**  JR explained that Vision, values, Aims being discussed at school with a staff working group that has split in to 3 groups to work with pupils, parents and staff. The group will be engaging with parents soon.  **d) School refurbishment**  Jo-Anne suggests that the money allocated to school so far to patch up problem areas and remove dangerous asbestos is all that we will be getting for now until the Capital Expenditure budget is set mid-February. Pressure on after that. | **LF**  **JR** |
|  | e) **Multi sports pitch** - £750 k to £1m prohibitively expensive and ongoing maintenance costs an issue. There would be resistance from locals re Lighting/changing rooms. Also, as we are looking to HC for funding for refurbishment of the school,  they would not take it well that we are funding for sports pitch!  Better to run with current pitch but ensure that the grass cutting by HC is more reliable, and that marking the pitch is done regularly. Jo-Anne to write to the council to this end and also put notices locally asking for volunteers to mark pitch.  f) **Minibus** - Fundraising for new minibus not considered a priority. The minibus would end up being a community asset and therefore not always available for school use. Also, drivers under a certain age not able to drive minibuses and would need to go through a DVLA MIDAS course which is costly (£100 per person). Trust fund could fund this? Meeting of trust fund executors to be arranged.  g) **Email addresses** - PC needs more email addresses. Next Parents evening is S2 on 31st January. Ellen to go and gather more names!  **h) Fri pm clubs**  **Art Club -** underway thanks to Roger McMichael and Thomas Keyes. Currently, the £3 per child is not covering the costs and is being subsided by RM. Trust fund to cover extra cost? JP asked JR and VP if they could push this to more children in younger years. Also, transport home needs to be discussed as more children might come if they have lift home. The more there are, the more likelihood of using minibus.  **Dance/Drama** - put on fantastic performance end of last term. Continues to be a success.  **Boys hockey** - going well.  **Coding Club** - to start up 23rd Feb thanks to Joe and Donnie. Need more parent volunteers to make this work in case J or D not available. May also need a bit of funding from Trust fund. | **JP**  **JR/JP**  **EA**  **JR/VP** |
| **5.**  **6.** | **Fundraising** - 100 club - Jo-Anne to get it off the ground soon.  **Spring Quiz Night**. Date to be organized.  Highland Gathering – Lisa to contact MR at the school to start organisation. JR to pass on email address.  **AOCB**  Complaints from public about the ice-cream van stationed outside the school. Nothing we can do about it as it has been thrown out of court a number of times. Scottish Govt problem.  Jo-Anne to write to Co-Op head office and ask them to enforce no selling of these high caffeine drinks to school children.  The school had been contacted by a resident unhappy with litter dropped by pupils at lunchtime around Fortrose.  Parental support in tackling the issue is appreciated. Steps will be taken by the school when the offenders are identified.  Date of next meeting. Thursday 15th March 7.30 pm | **JP**  **LF/JR**  **JP** |