

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MEETING – MINUTES

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 24 th January 2017
Venue	Library, NBHS
Purpose	Parent School Partnership Meeting
Present (PSP)	Mark Lucas, Mark Holling, Alistair Leckie, Susan Begg, Nicola Semple, Nina Thain, John Maslen & Kevin McCarthy
Apologies	Eddie Clark, Liz Partington, Sandra Gemmell, Anne Whiteside, Adam Whiteside, Robert Jones, Joanne Bloomfield & Tracy Ann Lonie
Staff in Attendance	Lauren Rodger (LR) (HT), Lari Neri (DHT) & Fiona Cairns (DHT)
Guests	East Lothian Council: Cllr Dave Berry (CllrB) & Cllr Jim Goodfellow (CllrG)
Clerk	Minutes taken by Lari Neri in Tracy Ann Lonie's absence (PSP Clerk)
Circulation	All Parent Forum, Local Councillors
Next Meeting	Tuesday 7 th March 2017

1.	Welcome	Action
	Mark Lucas, (Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received as stated above.	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>One amendment was made under AOB – Susan did a great deal of work around the Governance Review following on from a meeting with Fiona Robertson. The rest of the minutes were accepted and it was noted that the minutes of the meeting on 22nd November can now be published on the school website.</p> <p>ACTION: TAL to amend and e-mail copy of minutes to Nikki Collingswood for school website</p>	TAL
3.	<p>Head Teacher's Report</p> <p>Lauren's Head Teacher's update is now available on the school website, with a staffing update and other school news. Details of discussion in relation to the report is below.</p> <p>There was discussion following information about course choicing, particularly around staffing having implications on pupils' choices. In particular, we could be facing an issue in computing as there is a shortage of teachers nationally? At this stage, we have put in a request to recruit a permanent computing teacher and are awaiting confirmation from the Authority that we can progress this. Lauren explained the process of course choicing and timetabling and talked about how we are making decisions now without all the information that we need, for example: how will pupils' subject choices (due in by 17 March) affect number of classes? in what subjects will we get newly qualified teachers? will we be able to recruit in the areas we have identified as needing staff? The PSP were keen to help address these challenges that we face and asked what they could do to help. It was noted that there is a forum for raising concerns via the National Parent Forum Scotland and that this could be raised again at ELCPM.</p>	

We discussed the projected growing roll of the school and how, eventually, extension work will be necessary to accommodate a larger pupil body.

It is the Burns Supper this Friday, but not many parents have bought tickets so a plea to push this if possible.

We are holding our first 'Developing Scotland's Young Workforce' evening next Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30. A flyer will be going out to parents this week and information is on the website and has been sent via text.

Lauren has received a letter from Edinburgh University urging S6 pupils not to drop any subjects after receiving unconditional / conditional offers from them. If pupils plan to do this, they must contact Edinburgh University to inform them why. We have been encouraging our S6 pupils to get involved in other experiences outwith school as well as their studies, as a good balance is important.

We are hoping to get the Duke of Edinburgh Award up and running again. We will put information out to parents to request volunteers. Alice Clubb, our PT numeracy will be leading on this.

Lara explained that there will be an LGBTI support group starting up in the community to help support pupils. There is very helpful and supportive documentation available from Edinburgh to help schools to be as inclusive as possible for all of our pupils.

We then had lots of discussion around how we engage parents more with the PSP and with school priorities. What is the best way to go about this, how do we draw in more support and advice from parents, in order to improve? We decided that we could focus on three main areas, tying in with the School Improvement Plan. We could then ask parents if they would be willing to contribute to focus groups or to share their views and experiences in these areas. Our three areas could be:

Mental health

Skills beyond school

Homework

It was felt that a presence at up-coming parents' evenings would help to raise awareness of the PSP and to gather more parents' opinions on these topics. Volunteers signed up as detailed below:

Tuesday 7 Feb, S3 – Susan Begg / Mark Lucas

Thursday 23 Feb, S4 – John Maslen / Mark Holling

Monday 6 March, S5 and S6 – Nicola Semple

We will ask parents if they would be willing to be contacted by PSP regarding any of these topics and ask them to provide their email addresses in order to do so. It was then agreed that a fourth topic should be added: attainment and subject choices.

Lauren liked the idea of a banner to promote the PSP, as the PTA have done. Val McIntyre will be contacted to find out about the availability of a budget for this.

4.	<p>National Communications on Attainment Levels Refer to Head Teacher's Report – item no.3</p>	
5.	<p>Community Consultation on School Transport There is currently a community consultation on school transport – Mark distributed a document with details of potential transport routes that would be safe for people to use when walking or cycling. He would welcome any thoughts or feedback. Mark Holling asked for support from the PSP on the proposed safer routes to school outlined in the circulated document, and support was given unanimously. Cycleforth, a small body trying to improve facilities for cyclists and pedestrians in the NB Coastal Ward, had prepared the document and are trying to engage ELC to secure access from new housing developments to allow safer routes.</p>	
6.	<p>Anti-bullying Policy Lara distributed the draft ELC anti-bullying policy for comment from parents. This is out for consultation at the moment and any thoughts would be welcome.</p>	
7.	<p>Dates of future meetings 2017: Tuesday 7th March 2017 Tuesday 25th April 2017 Tuesday 6th June 2017</p>	
8.	<p>AOB There is a meeting open to all members of the North Berwick community to discuss the Lime Grove site on Thursday evening at the Community Centre. This has been advertised around the school and on the school website.</p>	
9.	<p>Close of Meeting The meeting finished at 21.00</p>	