

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF PSP MEETING OF 4 JUNE 2019

**Present:** N Bradley (Chair)  
K Dunwoodie, Parent Member  
L Forrest, Parent Member  
L Gurney, Parent Member  
J Massie, Parent Member  
L Turnbull, Parent Member  
N Meikle, Parent Member  
S Spring, Parent Member  
E Clark, Parent Member  
D Edmondson, Parent Member

**Attending:** Lauren Rodger, Head Teacher

**In attendance:** Cllr J Goodfellow  
C Maher, North Berwick Community Council  
Allison Cosgrove, Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllrs J Henderson and J Findlay, J Leslie, L Johnson, Joanne Bloomfield

1. *Minutes of previous meeting:* These were agreed by all present.

2. *Matters arising not already on agenda:* None.

3. *Head Teacher's Report:* Mrs Rodger reported on the following items:

Staffing issues in the office had now been resolved. There were two new appointments to the teaching staff from existing NQTs. There were a number of outstanding staffing vacancies which Mrs Rodger explained was a national rather than a local issue. Parents asked questions about teacher recruitment, and Mrs Rodger explained the current position.

The new timetable had started the previous day. The Senior phase course choices list was circulated and Mrs Rodger provided more detailed information. There were some questions about Advanced Highers, and she explained that this type of course gave the opportunity for the depth of study necessary for university and was also an advantage in applying for English universities. Cllr Goodfellow noted that a survey carried out had showed that those students completing Advanced Highers had a lower drop-out rate at university.

Mrs Rodger advised that the timetable was very tight, and although the school roll was increasing, it was not sufficient to warrant additional staffing.

On the Common School Day, a paper was circulated. Robert Jones was working on this and more information would be available next session. **Action – Robert Jones**

The School Communications Policy would be circulated for comments.

No update had been received from the Council's IT Dept on the use of a generic email address for parent council members.

School Expansion – a meeting had been held recently with the architects, with another planning planned shortly. It was agreed that a Parent Council representative would also attend these meetings.

The start date was 30 September with work ongoing for 42 weeks. The dining hall work would be carried out next summer and the Sports Hall work would be a separate contract. Work was scheduled to be completed by Summer 2021. Mrs Rodger briefly explained what works were taking place, noting that the school roll was expected to increase to around 1200 pupils.

Self-Improving Schools Initiative – North Berwick was grouped with Ross High and Knox Academy to work on self-evaluation, school improvement and sharing good practice.

4. *Cost of the School Day:*

The Chair advised that matters raised by parents had been referred back to the Council, and he had requested a parent representative place on the working group. N Meikle volunteered. Mrs Rodger would inform the relevant staff member at the Council.

**Action – Mrs Rodger/N**

**Meikle**

5. *Other Items:*

School Trip to Dalguise – Mrs Rodger advised of poor feedback from staff. It was thought not to be suitable for secondary pupils, as activities were geared to primary ages. Other venues were being investigated for next year.

East Lothian Climate Change Strategy – responses to this were sought from pupils as well as staff.

Noted that a new Eco Committee was now in place.

Parental Engagement Survey – 38 NBHS parent had responded. More communication from the School, especially notice of events, had been highlighted, as well as more information on course choices.

There would be an open air whole school ceilidh on the last Friday of term to which the community had been invited.

Finally, the AGM date of Tuesday 10 September was agreed.