

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 1 OCTOBER 2019

Present: N Bradley (Chair)
S Belford, Parent Member
S Grant, Parent Member
L Turnbull, Parent Member
M Cowie, Parent Member
G Milne, Parent Member
A Crummey, Parent Member
R Jones, Staff
J Waddell, Staff

Pupils: H Fish
A Fergusson
K Davidson

Attending: Lauren Rodger, Head Teacher

In attendance: Cllr J Goodfellow
Allison Cosgrove, Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J Henderson and J Findlay, C Maher, E Davidson, J Leslie and E Clark.

1. *Welcome:* The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the pupils in attendance.
2. *Minutes of previous meeting:* Proposed by L Turnbull, seconded by N Bradley.
3. *Matters arising :*
 - Land for sports field : Cllr Goodfellow advised that lease of this ground was currently being dealt with by the Council solicitors. The funding position was not yet clear, although an approach to North Berwick Trust could be considered. Any land transferred in this way would be on a permanent basis. He noted that the Council owned pitch should be ready to play on soon.
The Chair explained the position to the new parent members.
 - Common School Day: Robert Jones confirmed that matters were in hand and more information would be available at parents' evenings. Advice has been sought from Dunbar Grammar who have operated this system for some years.
A question was raised about the length of lunchtime periods and existing lunchtime activities, and Mrs Rodger noted that more activities could take place after school because of the 3.25 pm finish.
 - Cost of the School Day: The Chair advised that N Meikle, who was taking this further, had not yet heard any more.
4. *Head Teacher's Report:* Mrs Rodger reported on the following items:

A staffing report was made to members.

SQA Post Results service – 23 marking review requests had been made, with only two successful.

Self-evaluation – Science and Numeracy attainment meetings had been held. A detailed report had been provided, with areas for focus identified. Faculty reviews would take place in November with observations over 6 weeks, including pupil focus groups and pupil questionnaires. The main area would be Learning and Teaching in Broad General Education (BGE).

Budget – The census day had resulted in a total of 972 pupils. The budget would be very tight with no funds to give to faculties. Mrs Rodger described it as challenging times.

School Expansion – Site preparation had been due to start the preceding day, but this had been delayed until December, with ground being broken in January. Despite the delayed start, work was supposed to finish on time. A capacity figure of 950 pupils had been assumed, when the total was already at 972. If numbers were over this by next August, and works not completed, some temporary units may be required. It was not yet known how the cost of these would be met.

Noted that a lot of refurbishment was happening in the school as well as outside, and information would be available in the weekly updates.

On Attainment, Robert Jones provided a very detailed analysis to parents, noting that attainment was high and was becoming higher. On a question of post school destinations, 96% of pupils undertaking an Advanced Higher went on to university, and 97% of all pupils had a positive destination.

Cllr Goodfellow advised of East Lothian Works' role in assisting with destinations.

Sederunt – S Belford left the meeting.

There was further discussion on the Pupil Equity Fund, the Scottish Achievement Challenge – where it was noted that none of the funding came to East Lothian – and the effect of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) had on attainment.

5. *Other Items:*

A question was asked about sufficient space to eat packed lunches. The kitchen area would be expanded and a covered space created outside; Mrs Rodger noting that North Berwick had more pupils staying in school for lunches than other schools. Parents also asked about the choice available, with senior pupils giving their views. It was agreed to ask the Canteen staff to come to the next meeting.

Action – LR

Other issues for discussion at future meetings were agreed as follows:

November – School Lunches / Teaching Practice in Effective Learning

January – Environmental matters

March – Support for Learning

April – Communication / School Improvement Plan

Dates of future meetings: 20 November, 21 January 2020, 3 March, 28 April, 2 June.