



Ross High School, Well Wynd, Tranent, East Lothian EH33 2EQ

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 27th October 2015

Present: G Walshe (Chair), J Belton, R Powell, J Robertson, N Neighbour, A Muir, L Renwick, P Reynolds, L Morrison, Cllr J Gillies, Cllr Kenny McLeod, Cllr S Akhtar, N Nicholls (Clerk)

In attendance: Simon Davie, Fa'side Area Manager

Apologies: Cllr D Grant, Donna Mack

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>RP agreed to represent the Parent Council at the P7 Parents' Evening on 3 November 2015. PR said that he would be inviting Joe Moore along to the next meeting to talk about Google Classroom. PR confirmed that a Skills Scotland careers event for on 29 October would take place during the same period when S4 pupils were on work experience placements. The minutes were approved by RP and seconded by JR.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>Audrey Arthur, Support for Learning Teacher, would be retiring at Christmas which would be a big loss to the school. Three support for learning staff and a permanent Maths teacher had recently been appointed.</p> <p>The sponsored walk had raised just under £6,500. 10% would be donated to a local charity to be decided by pupils.</p> <p>Around 90% of pupils had been attending school wearing full school uniform. The remaining 10% were smart and almost in full uniform. PR thanked parents for their support.</p> <p>East Lothian Council's (ELC) Head of Education had resigned and a new internal appointment would be made. An updated 4th version had been produced of Education Scotland How Good is our School (HIGIOS) - designed to promote effective self-evaluation.</p>	<p>RP PR/N Nicholls</p>

S4 pupils had won an East Lothian outdoor challenge event. S1 pupils had been settling in well. A pupil in the ASN Department had written unaided for the first time in his life. Aaron Jardine would be representing Scotland at the World Under 21 Karate Championships. Four pupils had attended a training session with FC Porto. Two pupils had gained the Chief Scout award. Megan Kivlin had won a gold medal in the under 18s British Bowls Championships. Pupils had spoken to Kezia Dugdale and Iain Gray who had recently visited the school.

Twilight training sessions for staff led by the school's Learning and Teaching Group had covered subjects such as boys' attainment and differentiation in the classroom.

The 8th out of 10 raffles for those wearing school uniform had been held with a prize of a £10 Amazon voucher. The 10th raffle would be for a £300 prize.

PR had watched an outstanding production in a drama class which had also been written by pupils. Pupils would be putting on a school show of the Little Shop of Horrors in June 2016.

There had been a fire awareness assembly for S1 pupils and the local organised fireworks display had been advertised within the school. Tickets for the school Burns Night on 29 January 2016 would go on sale shortly.

PR suggested that there could be a Q&A session at the next Parent Council meeting as well as or instead of the Head Teacher's report. **PR** would speak to new year group representatives and school office bearers to find out if they would want to participate in this. Parent Council members would be asked to submit questions when the agenda for the meeting was circulated.

PR

N Nicholls

4. Rights Respecting Schools

Ross High had now been assessed as Rights Respecting School and would be working towards achieving level two of this award by working with cluster Primary Schools and involving the local community.

5. Finance Update

There was £35.58 in the Parent Council bank account. **PR** would raise staff awareness of Easyfundraising and send an email to parents about this.

PR

6. Named Person Act

PR had been involved in a Highlands Council pilot for GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) which included having a named person for every child. This person would change throughout a child's life from the midwife, Health Visitor, Nursery Staff, Primary School Head Teacher to High School head Teacher/ Guidance Teacher. If other agencies were involved, a decision would be made on who would be the most appropriate named professional person. The new Named Person Act was designed to improve on the existing three stage assessment process involving different agencies. Lara Neri had been seconded from North Berwick High School to implement the new legislation in East Lothian.

7. Parents' Queries

There were none.

8. Parent Council Health Check

GW would fill in a Parent Council Health Check questionnaire and circulate this to Parent Council Members for comment.

All

9. Feedback on the new Senior Phase Tracking Reports

Although some parents felt that it might be too early in the term for a tracking report it was noted that work for the new school year had begun before the summer break so reports covered 8 weeks of course work. Some reports had not included target grades in the summary - it was noted that there had been a problem with printing and reports had been re-issued. Not all target grades were easy to understand as they had been worked out in different ways for different subjects. Some parents had been confused as the new reports were different from previous reports. Parents had found comments and next steps useful.

Data produced by the reports would enable staff to identify where intervention was needed to improve attainment. Parents would also be encouraged to talk to staff about any concerns they had about attainment at an early stage. The school aimed to extend tracking and monitoring to years 1 to 3. **PR** showed Parent Council Members a draft progression chart of routes pupils might take from general education (years 1-3) to the senior phase (years 4, 5 and 6). The Parent council confirmed that this would be welcomed. The importance of preparing pupils for the workplace as well as achieving academically was noted.

10. Fundraising

Prizes were being collected for the Quiz Night on 13 November 2015. A prize for four people would be needed for the winning team.

All

11. Fa'side Area Manager

SD said that the Fa'side Area Partnership (AP) had been set up last year as a community planning partnership. **RP** had represented Ross High School Parent Council as a member of the on the AP but would need to step down at the end of the year as he would no longer be a Parent Council member. **SD** was responsible for delivering projects included in the Fa'side Area Plan – a ten year strategic plan which identified short term priorities in the ward. An Active Travel Working Group had helped to identify a range of priorities including promoting cycling and the development of a network of core paths for walking/cycling. Bill Laird had been appointed Chair of the Fa'side AP in July this year. The AP had a devolved budget of £200,000 and could also influence other budget holders in the council and secure funding from external sources eg. Diageo funding for a Pencaitland - Glenkinchie core path. This funding could not, however, be used for ongoing revenue costs. **SD** asked members of the Parent Council to contact

him if they wished to get involved or could suggest projects requiring funding which could be included in the Area Plan. **PR** had previously discussed with SD the refurbishment of the school PE changing rooms.

12. Time for Reflection

PR would circulate and seek feedback on a programme of planned assemblies focusing on citizenship and global awareness which would tie in with the school's aims and values and include working with local partners.

PR

13. AOCB

SA asked for the What You Say Counts numeracy initiative to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. **PR** would speak to Ann Archer about information for parents about Scholar - an online learning tool paid for by East Lothian Council.

SA
PR

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24 November 2015