



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th April 2016**

Present: G Walshe, A Muir, J Robertson, J Belton, R Powell, N Neighbour, D Hill, L Morrison, P Reynolds, Cllr. J Gillies, N Nicholls (Minutes)

Apologies: L Renwick, Cllr. S Akhtar, Cllr. K McLeod, Cllr. D Grant,

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>DH and GW thanked PR for school team hockey masks. PR said that pupils would not be invited to donate their old blazers to the school until after their final exams and graduation had taken place.</p> <p>GW said that SA would advise the Parent Council about future funding opportunities. AW would forward emails which she received about funding to GW.</p> <p>PR confirmed that pupils taking two or fewer National 5 exams would not have study leave but that this could be requested by parents. Pupils not on study leave would participate in an employability project involving work experience and speakers coming into the school.</p> <p>PR had discussed with the PE Department parents' concerns about first and second year pupils and subsequent year groups being asked to wear black and white kit for PE. PE staff said that they had not experienced any problems with this but as a compromise would encouraged pupils to wear this kit but there would be no sanctions if pupils wore other colours.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved by JR and seconded by JB.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>All appointments for next term had been made. 8 pupils had taken part in the RUTS (Rural and Urban Training Scheme) motorbike project. The ASN Department had put on an Easter assembly with the theme of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. On a recent tour of the school PR had been particularly impressed with pupils' engagement with teaching and learning. A number of S3 pupils had received SQA Languages Life and Work awards. There had been a</p>	<p>AW</p>

“bin it” roadshow for 1st years and pupils would be producing a video showing the work of the cleaning staff and janitors in the school. An email had been sent to parents asking them to fill out a school survey. A number of pupils had won Church of Scotland Moderator’s Medals.

Ellie Dalrymple had won a Champion of Champions Championship in Adelaide Australia for highland dancing. Lucas Reid had been named as part of the Scotland Under 16s rugby squad. Megan Kivlin had represented her country once again for bowls. The school’s first years had won the East and Midlothian football league and the Under18s football team were in the finals of the East Lothian Cup. Pupils on recent school rugby tour had been well behaved and a credit to the school. Ross High School were the overall winners of the East Lothian Swimming Gala. There had been staff versus 6th year netball and football matches. Some pupils had taken part in Duke of Edinburgh expedition at the weekend.

Over 100 pupils had attended a jobs roadshow in Haddington organised by Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce regional group. Around 200 local employers were recruiting for full and part time job vacancies. This opportunity had been offered to 4th 5th and 6th year pupils particularly those who would be leaving school to go into employment.

This year pupils going into 6th year were being asked to complete an application form followed by a discussion with a member of the Senior Management Team to provide interview practice. The 6th year graduation ceremony would be on Thursday.

PR said the Health and Wellbeing Group in the school had invited a member of the Parent Council onto the group. The Parent Council would also need to nominate a new member [and possibly deputy] for the Fa’side Area Partnership. **PR** had recently had useful meeting with Simon Davie about Area Partnership funds. The Parent Council would need representation from 2nd and 3rd year parents next year.

Important Dates:

28 April – S6 leaving ceremony

3 May – start of study leave

19 and 20 May S3 Duke of Edinburgh expeditions

23 May – In Service Day

25 to 27 May - S2 Olympic Challenge

30 May – new timetable starts

1 June - study leave ends

3 June – S5 returning to S6 interviews

Week of 6 June – blazer fitting.

7 June - Junior celebration of success evening

8 and 9 of June – P7 induction

9 June – P7 parents’ evening. **AM** and **JR** volunteered to attend to represent the Parent Council. **N Neighbour** would also be there.

13 June – Sports Day

14 June - School Summer Concert

16 June – County Sports

17 June – S6 prom.

21 and 22 June – School Show

23 June – Normandy, Paris trip leaves

24 June – London Paris trip leaves

AM/JR

25 June – Spain trip leaves
Week of 27 June – Activities Week

4. Finance Update

There was £371.80 in the Parent Council bank account.

5. Fundraising

The Parent Council would providing prizes for raffles on both nights of the school show (21 and 22 June) and would keep the proceeds from the raffle on the first night. The possibility of providing one or two larger cash prizes as well as smaller donated items and having a donations bowl for refreshments was discussed. This would be discussed further in May and Parent Council Members could also collect prizes in the meantime. **JG** said that he, **DG**, and **SA** would donate a voucher for a meal at Musselburgh Racecourse. **DH** said that Ross High Hockey Club had held a fundraiser for hockey tops which would also be used by school teams.

JG/DG/SA

6. Parents' Queries

A parent had asked for more lockers and also some larger ones to store musical instruments and sports bags. **PR** thought that there were sufficient lockers but would check that there was not a waiting list. There were places for pupils to leave musical instruments and large sports bags in the music and PE Departments. Pupils catching buses at the end of the day did not always have sufficient time to go to their lockers but **PR** said that they would be allowed to leave classes early if they had a note from their parents.

PR

LR wished to remind parents about a library service questionnaires that needed to be returned by the end of May. **PR** would look into a complaint from a parent that hailstones had fallen into the canteen from an open window and that no attempt had been made by staff to wipe the wet floor. **FES** had been advised that some lights over the school's astro pitch were not working. It was also noted that a hole had been cut into the fence. **PR** said that a letter and booklet about the 6th year would shortly be sent out to pupils.

PR

7. AOCB

A Pencaitland Community Council member had asked **N Neighbour** to pass on a comment about how smart pupils looked in their school blazers. Pencaitland Primary School was having an open morning on 6 May 2016 to celebrate the school's 40th anniversary. There would also an evening event on Monday 5 May.

The Parent Council was content with a reporting calendar circulated by **PR**. There would be two reports for S1 and S2 pupils: one showing levels of attainment and information on behaviour and effort; and a more detailed report with bullet points showing areas of focus for learning, levels of attainment and a progression framework. Levels reports for first years would be issued early in the year followed by a parents' evening allowing discussion of how pupils had settled in. Second year levels reports would be issued later in the year after course choices had been made.

Date of next meeting: meal on Tuesday 24 May 2016