



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 27 September 2016

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, B Esamal, W McNeish, R Averbuch, A Muir, J Robertson, N McMillan, J Dall, C Christie, P Reynolds, Cllr. S Akhtar, N Nicholls (Minutes)

Apologies: L Renwick, D Hill, Cllr. J Gillies, Cllr. D Grant, Cllr. K McLeod,

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Parent Council meeting followed on from the AGM. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>PR said that he had posted the School Development Plan on the school website and would be posting a summary of the Standards and Quality Report.</p> <p>It was noted that the AGM of the Fa'side Area Partnership was at the same time as the next Parent Council meeting. However, GW or N Neighbour would attend. PR would invite the Head Boy and Head Girl to attend the next meeting of the Parent Council.</p> <p>PR said that Ross High and the cluster primary schools were putting in a joint bid to the Area Partnership for skills development funding.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved by JR and seconded by RA.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>Joe Moore had been appointed Principal Teacher for Classroom Practice. Five new pupil support staff had been appointed. Staff in the school had been covering temporarily a teacher's maternity leave in the Maths department but a new appointment had now been made.</p> <p>There had been good feedback from parents following the Senior Celebration of Success Evening. PR thanked CC for providing PowerPoint displays. George McNeill, a former pupil, spoke during the evening and Eleanor Forsyth received the Dux award.</p> <p>Some pupils were following courses in confidence and self-esteem. A group of 3rd years were taking part in the RUTS (Rural and Urban Training Scheme) motorbike programme.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>GW/N Neighbour PR</p>

Two 6th year pupils were representing Ross High on the Tranent Health Care Patient Group.

PR reassured parents that EIS union action to not to attend SQA run events would not affect pupils in school.

The S1 disco organised by 6th years had been excellent. The sponsored walk had taken place. A different type of fundraising event might be organised next year. There were groups in the school working towards achieving Gold, Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

At the Heart-of-England Judo Championships Hannah Wood won a silver medal and Callum Wilson won a bronze medal. The under 16s rugby team won 41-0. Megan Kivlin was part the Scottish under 17 team which beat the England Under 25 team. A number of pupils were in the Lothian senior football squad. A pupil was in the East under 16 rugby team. In the county sports the senior boys were champions and the S3 girls came second.

The Scottish Canoe Association Regional Coach responsible for ASN development, Willie McLeod, referred to Ross High School as "the experts" for others to refer to. S3s had attended a drama, 'Pond life', at the Brunton. Two pupils had gone to the United Nations in Geneva with the Tranent mural. The School Bell programme, to which Ross High pupils contributed, had won a gold in the Community Radio Awards. There would be three prizes of £100 for the uniform raffle this year.

PR said that a meeting to discuss Education Scotland Insight data on benchmarking showed continued progress in attainment over the last three years

Sadly a member of the school canteen staff had passed away. **PR** and pupils had attended the funeral.

4. Fundraising

There was discussion about the quiz night and when it should be held. **N Neighbour** had attended a meeting about fundraising and would send out information about this. Prizes would need to be collected for the Burns' Supper on 27 January 2017 and local businesses approached for possible donations of food.

5. Health and Well-being

PR said that there was an active Health and Well-being group in the school involving staff, pupils and partners in the local community. The group was learning about mindfulness, cognitive behavioural therapy and nutrition and looking into whether pupils would want to be able to access an app 'mind your mental health'. Parental involvement was welcomed and **PR** invited any parent who wished to participate in the group to contact him. **PR** would feed back information to the Parent Council on the work of the group. The FCT Department were planning to create a 'fizz free zone'. The in-service day in October would focus on mental wellness training and there would also be an East Lothian Mental Health Week.

**N
Neighbour**

All

ALL

6. Parents' Queries

RA had circulated some questions which he had been asked to raise about the Growth Mindset, transitional plans for P7s going to S1, holding a cluster event and arranging for ELC's Head of Education to talk to cluster Parent Councils about the National Improvement Framework. **PR** explained that the school's themes for each year promoted the Growth Mindset [eg. last year was the year of learning from mistakes and this year the year of the career]. Pupils also regularly discussed their learning with their Universal Support tutors. **PR** had presented information to the Parent Council about the National Improvement Framework. It was suggested that Val McIntyre at ELC could be asked to coordinate a cluster event if parents felt that more information was required. The P7 parents' information evening would be taking place in October and transition would continue throughout the year. Enhanced transition arrangements for some pupils began in P5.

AM said that the official Macmerry school bus was arriving late at school and pupils were receiving late marks through no fault of their own. **GW** said that the Ormiston school bus had been arriving to pick up pupils at 7.35am and they had been arriving at school too early. **PR** and **SA** would look into these matters and feed back to the next meeting.

There was also discussion about the system for pupils to queue at the office to obtain a late slip as this could make them even later for lessons. **PR** said that this system, which had been introduced last year, was not perfect but there had been a reduction in the number of pupils arriving late.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme was available to pupils from the 3rd year onwards. Pupils were made aware of this in school. However, there was discussion about whether parents should also receive more information about this and other opportunities for pupils in the newsletter, via the website and by text or email, bearing in mind that the school would not want to overload parents with text/email messages.

It was noted that in colder weather pupils might not wish to wear their blazers. It was suggested that pupils could carry a blazer to school in a bag and wear it indoors.

PR said that pupils were advised if lunchtime clubs had to be cancelled via an email to registration staff or by a note posted at the venue if there was a last minute cancellation. **PR** would email staff about these arrangements.

7. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 25 October 2016.

PR/SA

PR