



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 25 October 2016**

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, L Renwick, J Dall, A Muir, B Esamal, R Averbuch, N McMillan, J Robertson, P Reynolds, C Christie, N Nicholls (Minutes).

In attendance: T Lloyd (Head Boy), M Walker (Head Girl), E Nisbet (Deputy Head Girl).

Apologies: D Hill, W McNeish, Cllr. D Grant Cllr. J Gillies, Cllr. K McLeod,

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular members of the pupil Senior Leadership Team who were attending. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting, Note of AGM and Matters Arising</p> <p>There had been problems with school buses but East Lothian Council's Transportation service had been proactive in resolving them. Ormison now had two school buses running. It was noted that a change of provider was under discussion. The school would continue to advise parents to contact Andrew McLellan, ELC Transport Officer, if there were any problems with buses. PR had emailed a copy of the Parent Council 2016 Annual Report to Parents. CC advised that the funding request for a debating trophy had been withdrawn.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>Five new Pupil Support staff members were starting work this week and there was a new Maths teacher to cover maternity leave.</p> <p>A McMillan Coffee Morning which was open to members of the public had raised more than £515. There had been day of languages in the school involving posters being displayed and first years writing to staff members and receiving replies in different languages. Ross High pupils had come second in a Lothians Enterprising Maths competition and would be taking part in the national finals. Lyn Holmes, Finance Director at Canon UK Ireland had given a talk to 6th year pupils about working for the company and had stayed behind afterwards to speak to pupils and answer questions. RBS's finance director would shortly be talking to pupils through Speakers for Schools. Sporting successes were reported as participation in sport continues to grow.</p> <p>A group of 6th year pupils had given a superb talk about the work involved in achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The school had received excellent feedback following a tour of the courts by pupils.</p>	

PR said the arrangement which ELC had with the SQA for pupils to be entered for both National 4 and National 5 exams, when appropriate, would continue.

The recent In-service day which had focused on mental health training and mindfulness had been very positive. There had also been an analysis of Insight benchmarking data measuring the performance of Ross High against comparator schools. This had shown that girls were outperforming boys and that pace and challenge in the broad general education should continue to be developed.

The Tree of Knowledge company would be working with a group of 3rd year boys and their parents to increase aspiration and positivity. Joe Moore Principal Teacher Classroom Practice would be arranging for staff to be 'taught' by other teachers at the next in-service day.

4. Finance Update

There was £461.91 in the Parent Council bank account.

5. Local Development Plan

PR said that the new houses being built in East Lothian meant that school roll was expected to rise from around 1000 pupils at present to around 1150 within the next three years. An extension to the school would be built during this time. The school roll was likely to rise to 1350 within 5 years. A greater number of pupils meant that the curriculum could be wider and there would be opportunities to upgrade other parts of the school building eg. the PE changing rooms. **PR** would keep the Parent Council informed of developments. A seventh secondary school would also be built in eastern part of the county. It was noted that Windygoul and Sanderson's Wynd primary schools had already been extended.

PR

6. Fundraising

It was agreed that the Quiz Night should be held after the end of exams and 1 June 2017 was suggested. **PR** would email **GW** about arrangements and posters for the Burns Supper on 27 January 2017. **GW** would send a letter to **JD** confirming membership of the Parents' Forum to enable a funding application to the Royal Bank of Scotland to be made.

PR
GW
JD

The senior pupils present said that more chairs, new or donated, were needed for the 6th year common room.

7. Letter from Iain Gray MSP

Iain Gray MSP had written to the Parent Council to express concerns about the Scottish Government education consultation in terms of the format of the consultation and his personal concerns about the proposals in terms of finance, possible structural change and governance. **PR** would keep the Parent Council informed of developments.

PR

8. Parental Involvement Strategy

N Neighbour said that following the 2006 Parental Involvement Act, the Parental Involvement Strategy was being drawn up for East Lothian on how

parents might want to be involved in their children's education. A group had been set up involving Quality Improvement Officers, Head Teachers and Parents and the first meeting was two weeks ago. The strategy would be informed by other Scottish Government policy initiatives: the National Improvement Framework; Getting it Right for Every Child; and How Good is our School. West Lothian had already drawn-up a Parental Involvement Strategy and this would be used as the template for East Lothian's document. **N Neighbour** was also a member of the sub-group set up to produce a condensed, parent-friendly version of the strategy. Evaluation of the strategy would follow possibly by measuring parental satisfaction with their children's schools.

9. Parents' Queries

There was discussion about the use of Google Classroom by teachers in the school. **PR** said that training was provided but teaching staff did not have to use it. A trial was currently going ahead in a Maths class where parents also had their children's login details.

10. AOCB

There was discussion about providing interview practice, involving one parent volunteer and one teacher for all pupils at the end of the third year. Concerns were raised about: being clear about the purpose of the interview – would this be a mock job interview, linked to work experience or involve questions about moving into the senior part of the school; parents might be known to pupils at interview; and whether or not the end of the 3rd year would be too young for some pupils to participate in this and to receive feedback. It was suggested that interviews could be held in tranches but before pupils received their National Insurance numbers when they could be applying for jobs. Interviews could also be held during study leave so that teachers would not be taking lessons and would be able to participate. **PR** said that he wanted interview practice to be a positive experience for pupils and he would give it some more thought.

N Neighbour reported back on the Fa'side Area Partnership AGM which she had attended earlier in the evening which highlighted "you said, we did" achievements. Different community groups were represented eg. the Fraser Centre, Streets Ahead, the Community Sports Club and Support from the Start. The Fa'side Active Travel sub-group had received £200,000 funding from Sustrans for improving the core path network. The Recharge bike project had received £16,500 government funding. The Education bid would be discussed at the next Area Partnership meeting on 8 November 2016 which **N Neighbour** would attend. This item would be put on the Parent Council agenda for the next meeting.

PR

**N
Neighbour
N Nicholls**

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 29 November 2016