



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 29 November 2016**

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, A Muir, B Esamal, D Hill, N McMillan, J Robertson, B Sanchez, P Reynolds, C Christie, Cllr. D Grant, N Nicholls (Minutes).

Apologies: J Dall, R Averbuch, Cllr. J Gillies, Cllr. K McLeod, Cllr. S Akhtar

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising Ticket sales and advertising for the Burns' supper on 27 January 2017 were discussed. Tickets were £25.00 (BYOB). PR had discussed interview practice proposals further with colleagues and would keep the Parent Council updated. The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by JR and seconded by DH.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update Drama teachers had been recruited to cover maternity and long-term sick leave. A new Business Management teacher was covering long-term sick leave and a new Maths Teacher had started work.</p> <p>A successful P7 Parents' Evening had been held. The Parent Council was not formally represented but would attend the next S1 Parents' event. The new S1 was expected to be the largest year group so far. PR had received positive feedback from parents about the curriculum being offered to pupils. It was noted that additional out of school learning opportunities e.g. at Queen Margaret University and with the Academies programme were also offered.</p> <p>Ross High Pupils had won an award when participating in mock a court case at the Law Courts in Edinburgh. Pupils had recently given presentations as part of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. Musicians from the school had participated in a cancer support fundraising night in Haddington which had raised £680. Many pupils had gained music awards and performed at events in the local community. A football coach at George Heriot's school had written to Ross High to congratulate its pupils on a football match win and the way in which they had represented the school. Some pupils had participated in canoeing (the Paddle Power Passport) and the Cool Down Crew in conjunction with the Fire Service. Feedback on the Tree of Life work with 15 boys and their parents on aspiration had been positive. There had been an assembly and a two minutes' silence to mark Armistice Day.</p>	

This year was the school's Year of the Career and the Head of Finance at the Royal Bank of Scotland had spoken to pupils. There had been a Dragons' Den-type Ross Can Do Award in conjunction with Canon UK, Limelight Careers and the Co-op. The winning product was a specially researched and designed pillow in a bag.

The staff of the Additional Support Needs Department had been shortlisted for East Lothian Council's (ELC) Star Awards. Catriona Donaldson had completed 30 years' service in the school.

Ross High boys' football teams in three different year groups were top of their leagues and four teams had got through to round four of the Scottish Shield. Two pupils had been selected for the senior boys Scotland Squad. Two pupils had attended European Championships for Judo and Karate in Belgium. A girls' netball team had beaten Knox Academy 28-9. It was agreed that more information needed to be provided to football team parents about becoming involved in hosting pupils from the Merewether High School tour as this was the first year that football was involved. A pupil had gained a golf scholarship to an American university. Seven S2 girls had gained places on the East Lothian Hockey development squad.

64% of S3 parents had attended The S3 Parents' Evening and their views had been sought at an Evaluation Station. Five pupils per week were being selected a random and their views sought on the school. The Eco-Schools group was putting in a strong bid to retain the Eco-Schools flag.

The Facebook hoax about the school being closed had not affected attendance following a quick response from the school. The St Andrews University Geobus had visited the school. The final of the school's Youth Philanthropy Initiative would be on 13 December 2016. **RA** would help with judging. A boy band the Half Eight had performed at the school with a message on safe internet use. Pupils had been donating gifts for local elderly people. It was suggested that if business sponsorship could be obtained gifts could also be purchased.

4. Parental Engagement Strategy

N Neighbour gave an update on this following discussion at the last Parent Council Meeting. Two documents were being produced by ELC - the full strategy document and a shorter easier-to-read summary - to be completed by April 2017. The reports would cover: how parents could become involved in the life of the school; how parents could engage in their children's learning; and family learning.

It was likely that under the strategy there would be more formal consultation by the Parent Council with the parent body. This could take the form of a questionnaire: either by agreeing questions in the school's questionnaire to parents or in a separate Parent Council section. The Parent Council might also need to be more involved in the creation of the School Improvement Plan. **PR**, already consulted the Parent Council annually on the Improvement Plan which was based on the school's 5 year plan.

5. Finance Update

There was £461.91 in the Parent Council bank account. The Drama Department had asked if the Parent Council could buy second hand costumes for them on ebay.

6. Governance Review

Following discussion at the last Parent Council meeting, it was noted that parents could provide individual responses to the Scottish Government Questionnaire about the funding and management of schools or as part of a group response e.g. ELC, the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFs) or the Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC). It was agreed that the Parent Council would feed its views into the NPFs response which had been simplified into four questions. **GW** would attend an information evening on Thursday 8 December 2016 and **N Neighbour** would draft and circulate a Parent Council response for others to comment on/agree.

GW
N
Neighbour

7. Assessment Levels in the Broad General Education (BGE)

PR said emphasised that data which had appeared in the East Lothian Courier about assessment levels in the BGE for East Lothian Secondary Schools was experimental and was confident the work currently being done in school would lead to greater accuracy in future years. A letter about this had been sent to parents from ELC's Head of Education.

8. Fundraising

N Neighbour had obtained information about the schools lottery. However, it was agreed that this item would be discussed in January 2017.

NNeighbour
/ NNicholls

9. Parents' Queries

A Pencaitland Primary School Parent Council member had enquired if Ross High Parent Council was discussing the Governance Review and if members were interested in participating in an information event on the National Improvement Plan.

10. Area Partnership

N Neighbour had attended Fa'side Area Partnership (AP) meeting on 8 November 2016 and would represent the Parent Council at future meetings. A named substitute could also be put forward. Dates for 2017 AP meetings were 17 January, 14 March, 16 May, 18 July, 12 September and 14 November. **PR** advised that the cluster bid for education funding of £20,000 had not been approved due to insufficient evidence of significant impact.

11. AOCB

GW would send out an email about collecting raffle prizes for the Burns Supper. Some auction prizes had already been collected by members of staff.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 31 January 2017