



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 31 January 2017**

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, A Muir, D Hill, N McMillan, J Robertson, W McNeish, J Dall, R Averbuch, D Middlemass, P Reynolds, Cllr. J Gillies, Cllr. S Akhtar, N Nicholls (Minutes).

In attendance: L Dalglish

Apologies: B Esamal, L Renwick, C Christie, Cllr. D Grant, Cllr. K McLeod.

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 The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by N Neighbour and seconded by JR. RA said that he had helped to judge the final of the school's Youth Philanthropy Initiative and found the effort of pupils impressive.</p> <p>3. Anti-Bullying Policy LD distributed copies of "Respect for All" (East Lothian Anti-Bullying Policy December 2016) and "Bullying...A guide for parents and Carers" produced by "respectme", Scotland's Anti-bullying Service. There had been a period of consultation on East Lothian's Policy and the views of pupils, parents/carers and school staff had been sought across the primary and secondary sectors. LD would attend a council meeting to discuss feedback on 8 February 2017.</p> <p>RA said that this seemed to be a good plan and asked how the school addressed bullying issues in practice. LD said that pupils could approach any member of staff. Guidance Staff would then conduct an investigation based on statements taken from pupils in order to resolve the situation using restorative practice where possible. Parents/carers were contacted by the school on a case by case basis.</p> <p>4. Head Teacher's Update PR said that a new English teacher had taken up post at Christmas. A number of pupils had represented their country in different sports. There had been a visit from Education Scotland to discuss 16+ and Developing Scotland's Young Workforce and they had been impressed with the school.</p> <p>There had been a good atmosphere during the recent Merewether High School netball, hockey, rugby and football tour. Mark Urwin would obtain feedback from</p>	

parents.

The S2 curriculum pathways evening had been particularly well attended. Two 1st year and two 3rd year pupils had run an excellent session on using the My World of Work website. Two pupils had also helped on the RME stand.

An ex-pupil, Lorraine Anderson had recently received an MBE. Two pupils had won the Tranent Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year competition and would represent the school at the District Finals.

PR thanked everyone for their help in arranging the Burns Night supper which had raised over £1,300. Everyone agreed that the evening, the food and the speakers had been excellent. 60 pupils and 6 teachers would be going on the school's 6th Year trip to London next week.

5. Governance Review Update

N Neighbour said that she had attended an information evening in December about the Governance Review and had now submitted a response reflecting the views of Parent Council members. **SA** thanked the Parent Council and said that the next consultation would be on the formula for funding.

6. Finance Update

AM said that there was £461.97 in the Parent Council's bank account. It was agreed to provide funding of £400 to the Drama Department to help purchase costumes, props etc. in response to the Principal Teacher's funding request.

JR had arranged for 10 second hand chairs to be donated to the 6th year Common Room.

7. Health and Wellbeing

The school's Health and Wellbeing Working Group would be launching "Fizz Free February" with the aim of raising awareness of consuming healthy drinks but in a fun and cooperative way. **N Neighbour** said that Dunbar Grammar School had introduced a new anti-smoking and vaping policy for staff and pupils in November and that the Health and Wellbeing Working Group were considering whether a similar policy should be introduced at Ross High. **PR** said that smoking and vaping were currently not permitted on the school's premises and that pupils were discouraged in a supportive way. **PR** said that the Working Group would be reporting back to him with proposals. A training session for staff and parents with regard to understanding the teenage brain would be taking place in February.

8. Course Choices

PR circulated S2 (into S3) and Senior School course choice tables. The curriculum provides a broad choice in the 3rd year and advice on inter-curricular subject areas was included. All pupils studied PE but if this was chosen as an Expressive Arts subject pupils would need to select an alternative enrichment course. Although the school encouraged pupils to take a foreign language in the 3rd year and 85% of pupils had made this choice it had not been compulsory. However, the school has now moved to ensure all pupils study a foreign language. This was offered as an exam subject and also as an Enrichment course (French or Spanish for Travel/Culture). **PR** said that pupils took 13-14

subjects in S3 and this became 6 subjects in S4. This enabled an inclusive curriculum with different pathways onto employment or further education and also allowed pupils to study subjects in-depth.

Senior School Course Choices had been expanded to include details of external courses at Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College. **PR** would discuss with colleagues if information about transport should be included. It was noted that if pupils took an external course in addition to 5 Highers they would presently miss Higher subject classes whilst being out of school. Parent Council members agreed that it would be preferable for an external course to be included in the 5 school based subjects chosen by pupils and not offered in addition to those. It was important that pupils understood what entry qualifications were required by universities.

PR

9. Fa'side Area Partnership

N Neighbour said that at the last meeting of the Area Partnership (AP) submissions for funding from a £100,000 budget had been discussed. It was noted that there was also a separate raising attainment budget. The work of sub-groups (eg. Active Travel, Town Centre and Community Facilities) were also discussed). **GW** would be the Parent Council Substitute Member. Information about the work of the Area Partnership was on the council's website and in AP newsletters. **N Neighbour** had asked for Parent Council members' votes on AP projects which she would pass on. **RA** suggested that Active Travel met a number of different objectives and that a dual use path to Ormiston would encourage safer cycling. AP meetings were open to everyone but only Members or Substitutes could vote.

10. Fundraising

A date for the Quiz Night, school lottery and general fundraising would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

N Nicholls

11. Parental Engagement Strategy

N Neighbour reported on the production of East Lothian Council's Parental Engagement Strategy. An A5 easy-to-read summary would also be produced with a link to the main document. Both documents would probably be circulated to schools before the end of the school year and launched in the new school year. **PR** said that **N Neighbour's** work on this was very much appreciated.

12. Parents' Queries

Long queues at the S2 Parents' Evening had meant that parents and pupils had not been being able to see some teachers. **PR** explained that individual appointments were made for some subjects but this was not possible in the time available if staff had a very large year group.

13. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28 February 2017