



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 28 February 2017**

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

Apologies: D Middlemass, N McMillan, Cllr. J Gillies, 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 PR said that the school had agreed to a request from NHS Scotland to run a peer influence anti-smoking/vaping programme. Course choice information was now on the website and forms would be distributed to pupils and parents at the forthcoming curriculum evening and at school. The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by AM and seconded by N Neighbour.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update Adverts had been placed for five new permanent teachers (History, Maths, RME, Physics and Drama) to start in August 2017 and for a new PE teacher to take up post as soon as possible. The school would also apply for a number of probationer teachers.</p> <p>East Lothian Council's (ELC) Head of Education was changing the way that schools would be evaluated internally (in advance of Public Inspections) and PR had volunteered for Ross High to receive a review. This was in addition to the annual Quality Improvement visits by ELC Inspectors. The review had gone well and the Additional Support Needs Department praised in particular. PR would share the written report at the next Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>The 6th year trip to London had been a great success and pupils had conducted themselves impeccably. The school had again achieved its Eco-schools Green Flag status and a video of interviews with staff and pupils was praised in particular. PR would arrange for this to be put on to the school website.</p> <p>Pupils from the Interdisciplinary Learning Group had been working at Crookston Care Home speaking to residents about being a teenager in 2017 and providing technical advice e.g. on using mobile phones.</p> <p>A pupil had represented Scotland in an American Baton Twirling championships, Megan Kivlin had achieved more bowls success. Two pupils had performed well in the finals of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>PR</p>

Individual Departments had done analyses of their own Prelim results and an analysis for the whole school was being carried out. There had been good feedback from staff participating in a Learning and Teaching In-Service day involving attending lessons being delivered by other members of staff.

The school now had a strong partnership with Charles River Laboratories, one of the top three employers in East Lothian, for work experience placements and links with the Science Faculty.

PR had attended a skills progression framework day for P7 pupils in the cluster at Edinburgh College which focused on STEM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. **PR** had visited the Senior Management Team at Dalziel High School Motherwell and had shared a lot of useful ideas.

A decision needed to be made, for inclusion in the Improvement Plan, on the focus for the next school year following the success of previous years (making mistakes and the year of the career). The school had been awarded £70,800 pupil equity funding from the Scottish Government based on uptake of free school meals (which had a high correlation to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation). A parent representative would be invited to be part of a planning group to consider how these funds should best be used in order to close the poverty related attainment gap. It was noted that Area Partnership money had been used for early years' intervention.

4. Finance Update

A thank you note from the Head of the Drama Department to members of the Parent Council for £400 funding been circulated. **DH** noted that pupils involved with the Drama Department had gone on to receive offers to study at prestigious drama schools. **AM** said that there was now £61.97 in the bank account and that there would be a new bank account signatory to replace James Belton.

5. School Improvement Planning

PR said that under the National Improvement Framework Parent Councils would have a greater involvement in the creation of the School Improvement Plan. In the past staff at Ross High had drawn up the plan which had then been submitted to the Parent Council for comments. There was now a push for the Improvement Plan to be co-created with the Parent Council and the school would need to demonstrate that this had happened. **PR** said that he found the Parent Council's support and advice invaluable. Questionnaires would be sent to pupils staff and parents and there had been an "Evaluation Station" to seek views at parents' evenings. It was suggested that **PR** could bring different options to the Parent Council and that discussion of priorities for inclusion in the School Improvement Plan (e.g. literacy and numeracy) should be a standing item on the agenda. **PR** would feed back the results of the questionnaire to the Parent Council.

6. Fa'side Area Partnership

N Neighbour thanked everyone for their votes and comments on Area Partnership proposals and said that the next meeting was on 7 March 2017. **RA** said the Active Travel Working Group would also be meeting shortly and that the path to Ormiston was almost finished.

N Nicholls
PR

7. Wider Parental Engagement

RA said that the school did a good job in sending out information to parents and had circulated some ideas on how wider parental involvement could be developed. This could involving greater use of social media, social events, parents being able to access to their child's google classroom calendar, inviting parents to see lessons in the school, to give talks to pupils about their jobs or to become year group representatives.

PR said that wider parental involvement and how best to achieve this was a priority for the school. However, staff did not want to burden parents with too much information and not everyone used social media. **PR** said that the parents of one 1st year class were presently able to access their child's google classroom account. 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils used a personal learning plan involving assessment of work by teachers and self-assessment by pupils which was essentially real time reporting.

It was agreed that there were two issues: greater parental involvement with and engagement with their child's curriculum; and wider parental involvement in broader school life. **PR** said that social events in the school e.g. the Burns Supper had raised the profile of the school In the community and that numbers attending the P7 parents' evening and curriculum evening had been going up. **RA** would re-circulate his ideas in a format which would allow others to add their thoughts to it.

8. Fundraising

GW would look at possible dates when the Quiz Night could be held.

9. Parents' Queries

There were no parent queries.

10. AOCB

PR said that Fizz Free February had been a great success, there would be questionnaire and assemblies on this subject next week. Although the initiative had now finished, the school would continue to promote water rather than fizzy drinks and consider how best to encourage healthy eating/drinking in the future.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28 March 2017