



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 25 April 2017

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, D Hill, N McMillan, J Robertson, R Averbuch, P Reynolds, Cllr. D Grant, N Nicholls (Minutes).

Apologies: D Middlemass, J Dall, A Muir, B Esamal, B Sanchez, Cllr. K McLeod

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above. It was noted that this was DG's last meeting before he retired as a Councillor for the Fa'side Ward. GW and PR thanked DG for his support to the Parent Council and the school and said that he would be missed.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising RA said that the upgrade of the Pencaitland railway path had now been completed. PR was looking into why parents had received absence texts when their children were at the school of rugby. GW would shortly be meeting the applicant for the position of Parent Council Clerk. An email had gone out to parents of 4th and 5th year pupils about a LEAPS conference about Higher Education in May 2017.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by JR and seconded by DH.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update PR thanked staff for running Easter study classes which had been well attended. Damien Donnelly, Support for Learning Teacher, had been put forward by a pupil for the Scotsman Hero awards and had been shortlisted for the teacher of the year award. An advert had been placed for a full-time permanent teacher of drama as an appointment to this position had not yet been made.</p> <p>Course choice interviews had finished and PR was grateful to Guidance staff for meeting pupils and parents. Analysis of prelim results had been positive. Tracking of pupils' performance enabled intervention by staff and the provision of extra classes where necessary and had been positively received by parents and pupils.</p> <p>A national change to National 5 and Higher qualifications would mean that in future pupils would not need to pass unit assessments. In the past results were taken into account and contributed towards a National 4 qualification if a pupil's performance was on the borderline between National 4 and National 5. In order to take account of this the D pass mark at National 4 was being changed from</p>	<p>PR GW</p>

45-49% to 40-49% nationally. Pupils would be offered the opportunity to take National 5 or National 4 and an additional National 4 coursework unit would be offered In place of the National 5 assessments.

PR asked for suggestions for a name for the forthcoming school year which would focus on wellbeing. Most of the work to achieve level 2 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award had been completed and would shortly be submitted for assessment. Ross High would be the first secondary school in East Lothian to achieve the level 2 award.

The school had recently welcomed around 25 international visitors from countries including Singapore and Belgium. There had been a positive Edinburgh University report to the Scottish Government about the visit.

The Ross High Sports Personality of the Year Awards would be taking place on 8 June 2017. Five of the East Lothian Falcons under 15s rugby squad were from Ross High. There had also been recent successes by pupils in swimming, Judo, Muay Thai and hockey.

There had been a uniform check on Monday which had been carried out in a positive way. **PR** was impressed with pupils and was grateful for the support of parents. Around 95% of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils' uniforms had been perfect. The wearing of blazers had recently fallen but might increase in warmer weather. The 6th year's recent graduation evening would be held on Thursday and Parent Council members were invited to attend. The 6th years would be going to Laser Quest on Friday as a Group.

4. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 31 March 2017 was £84.46. A credit of £22.43 had been received on 30 March 2017 in respect of EasyFundraising.

5. Area Partnership

It was agreed that **N Neighbour** would provide a response to Simon Davie (Fa'side Area Partnership Manger) on the Annual Working Area Plan 2017-18 based on previous responses from Parent Council members to a recent consultation exercise. There had not been an Area Partnership meeting since the last Parent Council meeting – the next meeting would be on 2 May 2017.

6. School Improvement Plan

It was agreed that the school Improvement Plan should include: the National Improvement Framework – to be discussed later in the meeting; assessment for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils; national benchmarking; tracking and monitoring and intervention in the junior phase - pupils learn at different rates but the school aimed to ensure that every child's learning continued to improve (Lee Campbell, Guidance Teacher would have responsibility for this); and literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing - Scottish Government pupil equity funding would be used to focus on this.

PR said that the responses to the parental questionnaire would be available for the next meeting.

It was noted that the next ELAPCM (East Lothian Association of Parent Council

**N
Neighbour**

PR

Members) would be on 13 June 2017. Recruitment Training was being held on 15 May 2017. **GW** and **N Neighbour** were already trained. **PR** and **GW** would be attending child exploitation awareness training. The draft East Lothian Council Parental Engagement Strategy had been completed.

7. Fundraising

The quiz would be held on 22 September 2017. **GW** would ask Roger if he would be willing to act as quizmaster again.

GW

Cala Homes had recently invited funding applications from local groups and charities. **GW** would look into making an application on behalf of the Parent Council for something specific – new hockey goalie kits or equipment for lunchtime clubs.

GW

RA would forward information to **PR** about the Scottish Government support of Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival Project to work with community groups to encourage more people to cycle. The school already had the "I bike" initiative and pupils were learning bike maintenance.

RA

N Neighbour had obtained more information about running a school lottery. This would be licenced via East Lothian Council who would provide regular updates and offered help from their print unit. Winnings could be donated back to the school if preferred. **N Neighbour** would find out more about how money would be split and circulate paperwork.

**N
Neighbour**

It was noted that a number of local clubs and schools raised funds through Easyfundraising. **PR** would look at advertising the Parent Council's Easyfundraising account using a banner at the foot of letters/emails to parents.

PR

8. S2 Olympic Challenge

Over the next four weeks S2 pupils would be taking part in an Olympic Challenge. This involved each of the 11 practical classes being allocated a country. Pupils would then learn about that country in general terms before rotating over the four weeks around different departments eg FCT and Geography in order to focus on that country. There would be a three day final involving two days of challenges including teams setting up stalls to market their country and a sporting Olympics on the third day. The winning team overall would go on a trip to M&Ds theme park. **JR** and **N Neighbour** offered to help with judging.

9. Parents' Queries

There were no parent queries.

10. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 30 May 2017