



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 30th May 2017**

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, A Muir, B Esamal, J Robertson, D Hill, R Averbuch

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), P Fraser (Speaker), C Christie (Teacher), M Donnelly (Teacher), D Middlemass (Parent), M McDonald (Parent), Cllr C McGinn, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr B Small, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr T Trotter, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: N McMillan, L Renwick, J Dall, B Sanchez, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr J McMillan

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted lots of new faces. MD will take over as a teacher representative when CC goes on maternity leave, PR thanked CC and wished her well. We are welcoming Haddington Councillors as well as Tranent because of the new boundaries including catchment schools with students at Ross High. Also a new Clerk VB was welcomed, thanks were noted to the previous Clerk.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising GW will ask Rodger about the fundraising quiz on 22nd September. RA mentioned that an app reminder on mobile phones could be useful, to be discussed further. PR and GW attended the Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness training and found it interesting and thought provoking, this will be discussed at a later date. NN saw the film Resilience about a Psychology study on how part of people's behavior relates back to childhood experiences. It was suggested that everyone keep an eye out for future occasions to see this film, as it was really interesting and inspiring.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by NN and seconded by JR.</p> <p>3. Catering and Parental Engagement Presentation PF highlighted the problem of getting students into the canteen. Only 28% is represented at the moment and any ideas from the Parent Council are welcome. On offer are three main meal choices that vary. Also every day soup, baked potato, sandwiches, salad and dessert are offered, all for only £2.10. There are nutritional analyses and the food is checked regularly to make sure it's healthy. There is both food cooked from scratch and street food like hot dogs and burritos to try to mimic High street food. The menu goes out twice a year in three-week cycles. PF also mentioned that it's okay for the students to come and grab the food and go afterwards if they don't want to eat in the canteen. Also, it's quick to get served in the canteen compared to long queues on the High street. Cashless catering will be looked at during the summer. Post meeting note, this is already done by Ross High School and Cashless catering will be looked into by the Primary Schools only.</p> <p>Cllr CM wondered if there is an advance notice so the students know what's on offer? Also could perhaps do a health promotion letting them see what they are eating? MD said that a focus group on healthy eating could be set up. Discussions were made of how much money the students spend on High street, GW mentioned an average of £5.00 per day and PR pointed out that this could save around £700 per year eating in the canteen instead. DM said that they just want to go to the High street. Cllr BS asked if there could be a text reminder of the meal of the day or being able to pre-</p>	<p>GW</p>

order it on mobile phones? **MM** added perhaps a smartphones app? Or having the “cool kids” promoting the canteen? **PF** asked if there could be advertising on Facebook and Twitter? Or having a week’s promotion or taster session? Suggestions will be discussed and followed up at a later date.

4. Head Teacher’s Update

A few vacancies have come up lately with posts that can prove difficult to fill. **PR** said that there is a need for two Home Economics teachers, three Language teachers and a Principal teacher. A Drama teacher has successfully been appointed and will be starting in August.

Exams are going smoothly with the last one coming up. The feedback from the students was that they felt prepared.

The new school year will be the year of Character. Silence for Manchester was held and there has been a lot of support and talks about the importance of good character. No one has the answers however integrity, honesty and good character will go a long way and are also traits employers are looking for.

The students have done really well in sports this year winning 13 trophies in various sporting events. Especially mentioned was that the Ross High girls hockey team beat North Berwick. Also there is now a golf team for the first time and the students are doing the Chaplins Challenge in swimming. They are all looking forward to the Ross High Sports Personality of the Year Awards on the 8th June with a ceremony, judging, drinks and nibbles. Ross High Senior Celebration of Success will be held in September.

STEM has done a lot of work coding with “microbits” which is an important skill.

There is no study leave for N4, this is instead linked in with businesses and has been a great success.

The students have learned about different countries such as China, Peru, Canada and as part of this is going to compete in an Olympics Challenge with a ceremony, flags and sports. They will get marks for how well they are doing.

5. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 30th May 2017 was £84.46.

6. Area Partnership

NN gave an update that the Area Partnership had approved a lot of funding and all monies had been spent. The Fraser centre got funding, a new pavilion was sponsored as well as three sculptures and the Civic square had planters done by the Blooming Belters.

7. School Improvement Plan

PR presented the responses from the parental questionnaire. 80%-90% agree or are positive on every question, with an estimated 15% turnout, which was a great result. **PR** will look into how to best present some of the results to the Parent Forum.

The school Improvement Plan 2017/18 has been completed. Highlighted was self-evaluation development plan which is going to be taken further, **MD** is setting up a working group for this with Parents/Teachers/Students for a new policy that links into the National Improvement Framework.

PR

MD

There is a focus on learning and teaching with a junior leadership team. Departments are linking with businesses for example big employers of East Lothian. STEM is linking in with College. If the students aren't in school, they can do courses at Queen Margaret University or Apprenticeships for positive destinations. Each department will have Personal Learning Plans (PLP) with feedback around the learning and students giving feedback on how to teach better.

House competitions are to be looked at to see if they can be improved, however it is difficult to find a suitable prize for all the students.

8. Fundraising

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

NN explained how the school lottery would work. A licence would need to be bought, and lottery returns sent to the East Lothian Council. Initially sign up is for 1 year and is easy to stop. The parents would pay by monthly Direct Debit payments with a guaranteed winner every week. **PR** wondered if this was appropriate, and if going ahead needs to be clear that it's run by the Parent Council, and not by Ross High. **RA** pointed out that it hasn't been hugely successful elsewhere. **NN** to find out how many other High schools have signed up for this lottery. A decision to go ahead or not will be made at the next meeting.

9. Parents' Queries

RA asked if there was a way to find out what homework the students have been given to keep up to date with deadlines. **PR** replied that the students are treated as responsible individuals who are encouraged to take ownership and it's up to them to inform their parents. However one idea is to keep a copy of their timetable to know what subjects they have each day and when the exams are. Also the Parental Engagement Plan has suggestions regarding this.

10. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meetings: 29th August 2017 and AGM 26th September 2017

GW

NN