



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 29th August 2017**

Present: G Walshe, N Neighbour, J Robertson, D Hill

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), J Dall, B Sanchez, D Middlemass, L Taylor, K Douglas, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr G Mackett, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: A Muir, B Esamal, N McMillan, L Renwick, R Averbuch, Cllr J McMillan, Cllr B Small, Cllr T Trotter, Cllr C McGinn

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising GW confirmed that Roger will host the fundraising quiz on 22nd September. One amendment of the minutes was noted and VB will amend this. Cashless Catering is already done by Ross High School and is being looked into by the Primary Schools. A decision on the School lottery was to be made at this meeting however it's not quorate so this will be undertaken at the AGM in September instead.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by JR and seconded by NN.</p> <p>3. Pupil Equity Funding PR gave a brief introduction to the PEF (Pupil Equity Funding) project which is provided to all Schools by the Scottish Government to help reduce poverty related attainment gaps throughout Scotland. A teacher will dedicate one day a week to work with a targeted group of individuals in S1-3 with Health and wellbeing, nutrition and mental health. This will be done on a small group basis or individual basis. It's important that Ross High can show impact because given a significant amount of money for this. As an example a PE Teacher can work with the students doing different sports and teambuilding during this day. The students won't be targeted depending on which postcode they live in because the Teachers already know who will benefit from this. It is already a common place in junior School to have after School clubs which see improvement in learning, this can be expanded on. PR will follow up and keep us posted over the years of the benefits the extra day would prove to have.</p> <p>4. Head Teacher's Update The students have been on a number of School trips to various countries, for example Costa Rica, Barcelona, and America as well as more local trips. There were 230 new students starting in S1 and the feedback is that they are really positive, settling in well and like the School. New Teachers have started too and there are 7 NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher), 8 various Teachers and 5 PSA (Pupil Support Assistant). There is only one part-time member of staff in Home Economics and due to recruitment difficulties, there will be less classes. However there are other ways to get a similar outcome, for example with the new Teacher post in Enterprise, Creativity and Entrepreneurship. This is a great way of creating an exciting and positive solution to a difficult position, which can be</p>	<p>VB</p> <p>PR</p>

achieved by adding on cookery classes and demonstrations at the Edinburgh College. Students test results are in and **PR** is really pleased. This is the best overall score that Ross High has achieved in years as the results are going up again by 6%, well done. S4 Results had 10 students who achieved 6 A:s, very well done. S5 Results had 5 students who achieved 5 A:s, very well done to you also. S6 Results are overall slightly down however it's still the best set of results so far and Ross High has done brilliantly. Other Schools and statistics were discussed and **PR** mentioned that it's all about adding value and not about comparing results. Instead looking to see how the overall results are increased throughout the year stages. 2017/18 is going to be the year of character and the students have already identified 24 different words of character, which has been shortlisted, for example Honesty, Respect, Bravery, Fairness. The students were also discussing different scenarios with people that inspire them to have character. There will be a Book Festival McMillan coffee morning in the Loch Centre on Friday 29th September working with the community.

5. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 30th June 2017 was £84.47.

6. Area Partnership

NN mentioned that the Area Partnership has agreed to fund a musician to help Schools and Community who require support with music programmes and Ross High will benefit from this.

KM handed out a flyer for Tranent talks and events called Heritage On Your Doorstep that runs from 1st – 17th September in East Lothian. There is a High Street history project, Display of the Children's Parliament Murals of Tranent and live stone carving workshops. There will also be a Heugh garden open day, walks, talks and shop stories.

7. School Improvement Plan

A new plan will be looked into for 2017/18.

8. Fundraising

The quiz night is being held on 22nd September at Ross High School with Roger as the quizmaster. There will be a raffle, prizes, bingo and bring your own refreshments. Everyone is welcome and it's £10 per team of 4 people. **PR** mentioned that this is a fun night and is more about engaging with the parents than raising lots of money.

NN is looking for helpers to organizing a gig with a soul music band and was asking for ideas. A good soundperson is needed and the parents will ask around. The preferred venue is the High School however the Rugby Club was also considered. Other ideas mentioned included a disco after the band, having a bar, and raffles. The date mentioned was Friday 20th April unless this can be done as a Burns night event.

9. Parents' Queries

A question was raised about the cost of some of the School trips. It can be quite expensive for a family if there are a few trips a year, with additional costs for families with siblings. **PR** mentioned that there is a variety of destinations where those abroad were popular but obviously cost more than those in the UK. However, a popular destination within the UK is Blackpool and the feedback from the students has been very positive. **MD** will look into having a Blackpool trip this year.

Concerns have been raised regarding the school bus from Pencaitland and Ormiston. This is run by East Lothian Council Transport Services and individual schools can't make decisions on this however **PR** has approached the Head of Transport Services

MD

to organise a meeting to discuss this. Any concerns should be raised directly with them on 01620 827700 or email transportation@eastlothian.gov.uk.

10. AOCB

Burns Night was discussed and a possible date for this is Friday 19th January 2018. A Christmas fair was also discussed and **MD** will check with other Primary Schools to find out what dates they are having their Christmas fair.

SA gave an update on the Scottish government's Education Governance: Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity – a consultation, which focuses on shaping and influencing policy in relation to educational governance and consultation on empowering Education governance and future approaches to school funding. The consultation closes on 22 September 2017. (Post meeting note, this is still open to the public until 12th October)

11. Recruitment

Recruitment was added to the agenda and there will be interviews for the Deputy Head Teacher post in September. The Parent Council is required to have a representative when senior posts are filled and it was noted that **GW, NN, RA** and **DM** all are trained and can offer their support.

12. Parental Engagement

Parental Engagement was added to the agenda. **MD** is organising a conference on Thursday 22nd March 2018 to get parents engaged and this also includes P6/7. By getting the parents involved early they will have a better idea of what to expect and where to turn. The idea is for all to meet in the hall for an introduction where there are stalls, for example an Enterprise stall and Parent Council stall. After this they can go between workshops for about 15-20min each. Workshops could be for example positive destinations, mental health, revision tips, literacy and modern apprenticeships. **BS** mentioned that it could be an idea to find out beforehand what the parents find important by asking the right questions. **GF** said she could use Survey Monkey to engage with the parent forum quickly to find out.

Date of Next Meetings:

AGM 26th September 2017

Tuesday 27th February 2018

Tuesday 31st October 2017

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Tuesday 28th November 2017

Tuesday 24th April 2018

Tuesday 30th January 2018

Tuesday 29th May 2018

MD

GF