



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th September 2017**

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

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr B Small, L Mainds (Parent), V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr K McLeod, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr F Dugdale, J Dall, N McMillan, K Douglas

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW thanked everyone for coming along to the AGM. Also a big thank you to the newly elected Parent Council members for their continuing support. Representatives for S1 and S4 will be sought throughout the year. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising NN has been in touch with the Soulmusic band “Soulacoaster” who is still to confirm if the date Friday 20th April is suitable. They have also said that having a good sound person is really important which the Parent Council needs to organise. PR raised some concerns and suggested that the band came and had a look to see if they are happy with the set up and with the sound person before formally committing to the gig. It will also need to be properly promoted and advertised well in advance. NN to follow up.</p> <p>PR has now met with the head of Transport Services with only positive feedback. Any future concerns regarding the bus services should be raised directly with them on 01620 827700 or email transportation@eastlothian.gov.uk.</p> <p>SA encouraged the Parent Members to respond to the Fair Funding Consultation which is open to the public until 12th October. VB will amend the date in the August Minutes.</p> <p>The date of the next Parent Council meeting was changed to 24th October instead of 31st October 2017.</p> <p>DM mentioned that both Sandersons Wynd & St Martin Primary Schools have their Christmas Fayre on the same day.</p> <p>GW said that there is another opportunity to do the Recruitment & Selection training on 9th October, RA is keen and will considering it. VB will send out invitations. BS asked what skills the board is looking for when filling senior positions? PR said that it needs to be someone good enough to look after our children. The training is really interesting and its enjoyable to sit on the board and interview for senior positions. Cllr BS have had this training recently along with other Councillors and offered to support the Parent Council if needed. GW thanked Cllr BS for the offer.</p> <p>The School lottery decision was rolled over to the next meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 29th August 2017 were approved.</p>	<p>NN</p> <p>VB</p> <p>VB</p>

Proposed by **DH** and Seconded by **JR**

3. Head Teacher's Update

There has recently been a fight involving a group of pupils where the involved were charged. Being a Police incident, this has generated lots of media interest especially on social media, where some of the comments made were disappointing. The decision to keep the pupils on rather than excluding them was made together with Head of Education Fiona Robertson. The incident was dealt with very professionally and Ross High has moved on positively as a school. **PR** is happy to answer any questions that anyone might have on this.

Duke of Edinburgh silver awards exhibition, geography fields trips, science event, football games, rugby games and learning in classes and sponsored walk.

The sponsored walk raised £7000 towards free trips for pupils that cant afford to go otherwise.

Huge thanks to **NN** for all the hard work with the Parental Engagement Strategy. **SA** also said huge thanks for speaking so nicely about Ross High.

PR explained that the Fizz Free Forever initiative had been very successful so far with the most positive outcome being pupils and the wider community were now discussing general health and wellbeing.

Lots of sporting successes including Personal Best, Gold and Silver. Ross High has now also qualified for the Silver Sport award. Well done and very well deserved. **PR** said that we are going for gold next.

Active Schools is great and **PR** sends huge thanks to all the coaches, who are all volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

A letter from the public has been received praising Ross High pupils for helping out when no one else did. Thank you so much, the pupils are a credit to the School. **PR** is already very proud however it's great to receive such good feedback from the public.

SA also mentioned The Hunter Foundation who raising cash for children's charities in Scotland and the Obama Foundation where Obama came and gave a speech.

Best practice and one of Ross High pupils were chosen for outstanding writing, **PR** is very proud.

4. Homework Policy

This will roll over to the next meeting.

5. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 26th September 2017 was £254.47

6. Area Partnership

PR spoke to Simon Davie and mentioned about cycling to School. The Area Partnership has worked hard contributing to building and upgrading cycle paths in East Lothian, for example by the bypass called "safe paths". However what really is needed is safe storage for bikes. **NN** asked if this could be incorporated in the new extension? **PR** is looking at lots of possibilities and **RA** is happy to make suggestions to the Area Partnership too. Also considered is a large area where bikes are locked and safe, or perhaps even a big shed that is kept locked during the day.

RA

7. School Improvement Plan

This will be on-going over the year.

8. Rights Respecting School

Unicef supports Schools to help the pupils know what their rights are with ethos being most important, creating fundamental values. Ross High has been working really hard towards Level 2 Rights Respecting Schools Award and with an assessment coming up, could be the first School in East Lothian to have achieved it. RA volunteered to help.

9. Fundraising

The Burns Night will be held on Friday 19th January 2018. **GW** volunteered to hold one of the speeches and everyone thanked her for this. **PR** will ask pupils and Teachers for the three remaining speeches. **GW** asked everyone to kindly start asking around for donations, the earlier the better. Tickets will be £25 per person if the canteen is happy to do it again. The capacity is a maximum of 15 tables with a total of 150 guests to have space for the ceilidh.

10. Parents' Queries

AM had a query about items going missing from the PE room. **PR** said that there already is a programme with a system in place so the PE rooms are properly locked. There will always be people walking through however the School is working on this with improved systems in place. Valuables are being put on a tray or in a bag for safe keeping so it wont go missing and returned after class.

RA wanted to follow up on staffing and Home Economics. **PR** said that it's a difficult situation due to Teachers leaving and the current climate. There is still a part time position left and Ross High is at the same time working with the Edinburgh College. They have kindly dedicated two Hospitality Tutors with a total of 6h in the kitchen, which has worked out brilliantly. A very positive move.

SA said that Conventional Economics, Home Economics and Maths are being looked at regarding the shortages in the Teachers workforce. She will share with the Parent Council once the changes discussed are agreed to be made public. **PR** said that there is a Teaching crisis at the moment. **Cllr BS** also mentioned that the government is looking into it and it's a problem that needs recognized as these changes wont happen overnight.

11. AOCB

NN handed out the East Lothian Council Parental Engagement leaflet. The strategy for 2017 is to make parent involvement in the schools a priority at a level that is right for each parent. This will be done through creating a welcoming environment, communication and supporting parents to engage in learning.

The Book Festival McMillan coffee morning is in the Loch Centre on Friday 29th September, 9am-12pm

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting 24th October, note that this was changed from 31st Oct
Area Partnership meeting: 7th Nov public RHS
ELAPCM meeting: 22nd Nov

PR