



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 28th November 2017**

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

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth
(Teacher), M Macdonald (Parent), W Thornton (Parent), L Donohoe (Parent), Cllr G Mackett,
V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: J Robertson, N McMillan, C Douglas, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr B Small, Cllr K McLeod,
Cllr C McGinn, Cllr J McMillan

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 PR has passed on the discussions about the Homework Policy and a statement will be drafted as part of the Learning and Teaching Policy.</p> <p>GW mentioned that the P7 Parents and Pupils night went really well.</p> <p>GF said that it was a really positive outcome of the Parental Engagement Survey with 95% wanting to come out of 130 replies. The 28th March 6pm-8pm is booked. There will be workshops of 20 minutes with for example, revision techniques, mental health and internet safety. Lots of volunteers have come forward already and there will be refreshments and plenty of opportunities to ask questions.</p> <p>The Ross High Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 9th December at 10am-12pm. There will be Santa's Grotto, Raffle, Tombola, Tea, Coffee and cakes and lots more. The students have worked really hard with their craft stalls as part of the Home Economics course where they have organised their own stalls with limited funds. Lots of volunteers and MD said it will be great and discussed how the tables would work.</p> <p>Cllr GM talked about the requirement for a Trader's Licence causing problems, as East Lothian Council Licensing are asking traders to pay to sell their goods. PR said that the cost for this would be covered, as it is a bigger event.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 24th October 2017 were approved. Proposed by NN and Seconded by AM.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update PR said that it has been a very busy month. The activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A House competition with swinging donuts for Halloween • Parents evenings, which were were great • The McMillan Charity Concert in Haddington • The Children in Need bake sale, which kept the students very busy • The Remembrance day, which was marked with a display • Visits to the Panto • Brick building construction challenge, which was won • A visit to Auschwitz • The Photography trip is still growing • The Resilience Team keeps going • Christmas campaign wrapping presents for the elderly 	

The students are continuing to do well in sports with fantastic achievements in for example Bowling, Karate, Rugby and Trampoline.

Great success in the mock court case where the students were sitting in on a real live court case and taking part in a mock trial. It has been running from September to November with the students themselves acting pursuers, defenders, witnesses and GF said that it is a great opportunity to get this experience, especially if thinking about going into law. It was a great team effort finishing on a second place and Jordan Smith got an invitation to The Hague in The Netherlands for a week. All peers are really proud and it is an amazing opportunity.

The STEM newsletter readership is growing and the students are committed, which helps to improve their results. It was a very positive evening.

The students are piloting Podcasts where they are taking the lead, interviewing people on audio and launch it on twitter. The first Podcast series is out now.

There has been 7 students from Kuwait working in the building, which has been a great experience for all. Students have learned first hand about translating language and Education Scotland and can evidence it all and gave great feedback. PR is very proud.

YPI - Youth Philanthropy Initiative is looking for a judge on the panel and PR asked if anyone could spare 2 hours for this. More than 31,000 students are engaged this year in delivering an informative presentation and the winning classes goes on. The judging is very hard, clear and about the delivery, presentation and confidence.

PR said thanks very much to the very dedicated staff dealing with the student's behaviour, which can sometimes be challenging. Part of the issue is the Teacher crisis where the School is down on Support staff however PR is confident that it will be fixed. A letter will posted out to all parents and carers regarding this and PR asked the Parent Council members advice on the drafted letter. A final version was agreed after a constructive discussion regarding some of the concerns.

At least 6 Guidance Support Teachers are needed which gives each teacher 120 students to be responsible for. Especially important is a focus on the more challenging students to be able to keep them in the mainstream classes, which is only possible due to the extra support.

4. Parental Engagement strategy 2018

Head of Education Fiona Robertson has sent a letter to all the Parent Council's to inform them about the Parental Engagement Strategy for 2018. It was agreed that the Parent Council would focus on one of the key items per meeting. MD and GF will be able to let the Parent Council know if anything needs actioned in helping parents to engage. RA suggested that we need to make sure it goes with the School's Aims and Values.

1. A warm welcome in the school
2. Communication and involvement - Social media
3. Engagement in child's learning
4. Family learning opportunities
5. Parent Councils - promoting the role and function
6. Complaints procedure

GW suggested starting with communication using Social media, especially Twitter. PR mentioned that newsletters are great however lots of work goes into it but can be quicker with twitter which also uploads to the website for the ones that don't have it. MM suggested to highlight 5 things that happened this week and a discussion followed on what format is preferred and how it would work. Update at the next meeting.

NN said that there are still spaces left to be voting members of the Parent Council with a limit of 10 members and asked if anyone else wished to be a full member? GW and

NN will decide on this and inform in due course.

5. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 1st November 2017 was £254.48

6. Area Partnership

The annual public meeting was not as well attended as last year, but the AGM was very well attended. Donald Grant was elected as Chair and Liz Hutchison was re-elected as vice chair. NN suggested the AP probably needs to look at how to ensure the public are interested and engaged; public funds are being used to fund projects so it is important to be sure that the public interests are being well represented. Recent funding proposals which were agreed include the provision of a Red Box in Ross High to supply free sanitary products for girls who cannot afford them, in a bid to reduce period related School absence.

7. School Improvement Plan

With the Year of Character there is a chance to be awarded £5000 to invest in leadership of young people at the Residential Resilience Week-end. This was very positive and there might be a possibility for funding for a secondment. Cllr GM will check with the East Lothian Council if there would be any problem before pursuing.

8. Rights Respecting School

Ross High has passed the Rights Respecting School Level 2 assessment and was awarded with the certificate by MSP Iain Gray. Lots of hard work to get this and PR is very proud, first School in East Lothian to get it.

9. Fundraising

The Burns Night will be held on Friday 19th January 2018 at £25 per ticket and bring your own bottle. There will be a ceilidh band, raffle, auction and speakers. GW asked for volunteers to source raffle prizes in January. MD will advertise for this.

“Soulacoaster” has now been booked for the gig held on Friday 20th April. It will be for over 18.s only as a “bring your own bottle” event, no bar. NN will advertise. Still need to find a really good sound engineer, MM knows someone with lots of experience and will speak to him to see if he is available.

10. Parents’ Queries

LT encouraged spreading the word and for more pupils to come along to the Boy’s Hockey team which has 22 boys playing at the moment. This is great fun and will eventually link up to other Schools looking to have a game next year.

MM asked about the policy for mobile phones in the classroom. PR said that there is a debate around this and it is up to each Teacher if they choose to allow them or not. Phones are mainly used for research during class time because there is a shortage on chrome books. A discussion followed on this and the use of iPads instead, PR said that the Schools who have them are bringing them into the teaching for this to work which doesn’t happen overnight, also they are expensive and sometimes not handed back. Cllr GM suggested using signal blockers so phones can’t be used however might impact the ones that want to use them. PR will pass this on and take it up at the next debate to get views from Teachers and students.

11. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting 30th January 2018

ELAPCM: 20th February 2018

MD

NN
MM