



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
Meeting of Tuesday 28th August 2018**

**Present:** G Walshe (Chair), N Neighbour (Vice Chair), A Muir (Treasurer), R Averbuch, L Taylor, B Esamal, D Hill

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), L Donohoe, W Thornton, J Dall, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr C McGinn, M Macdonald, H Boyle, K Furr, V Brown (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr B Small, Cllr S Akhtar, B Sanchez, D Middlemass

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b> GW welcomed everyone to the first Parent Council meeting of the new session 2018/19 and was delighted to see such as a good turn out with some new parents attending. Apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b> One amendment was requested; to name the Chemistry Teacher Wendy Adams. PR asked if the last meeting of the year in May could be re-instated because there is always lots happening at the end of the session. This means having the meal in June instead. It is noted as a compliment that PR missed the Parent Council meeting, as it is a great bunch. The minutes of the meeting on 24th April 2018 were approved. Proposed by RA and Seconded by JD</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher update</b> PR said that lots have happened since the meeting in April. To mention a few things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Red Box project is now up and running and pupils have been made aware.</li> <li>• The Tranent Food bank needs items.</li> <li>• The Health and Wellbeing week was successful.</li> <li>• Various STEM activities.</li> <li>• The Olympic challenge was great and this year there will be a World Cup challenge.</li> <li>• Raising teens with confidence conference.</li> <li>• Political class campaign.</li> <li>• Head boy and Head girl will come along to a Parent Council meeting soon. RA said that they featured in a local newspaper.</li> <li>• The House competition had Faside as the winner last year.</li> <li>• The sports day was held at Meadowmill on a sunny and nice day. The pupils were brilliant. Good and positive.</li> <li>• East Lothian Council probation of the year went to the Biology Teacher, Ed Chapman.</li> <li>• School trips went really well with destinations such as Spain and Blackpool. Not one negative with 100 pupils each day, which is great, a credit to the school.</li> </ul> <p>The exam results are in and it has been an incredible year for Ross High S6 who smashed the school record. The results for S4 were lower than other years across the board and PR will look into if something happened across the clusters for that year group and numerous interventions have been put in place already for next year. S5 is very small this year because some pupil's have moved on and perhaps wasn't in the right setting as exam results showed. Time to focus on positives and the school is</p>	<p></p> <p>VB</p> <p>PR</p>

definitely going in the right direction. Well done!

New staff has Miss Sheridan as a Principal Teacher in Improvement with a focus on Health and Wellbeing, which is a new post introduced to the school. There are also new Teachers in Maths, Additional Support Needs (ASN), Support Needs (SN), Physical Education (PE), Religious and Moral Education (RME), Business, French/Spanish, Food and Consumer Technology (FCT), Modern studies, Support for Learning (SFL). Also this year is seeing Teachers that have returned from maternity leave. RA asked what posts are needed filled? PR said that the school is now fully staffed which is great news.

#### **4. Parental Engagement strategy 2018**

The next Ross High School Parental Engagement evening will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 5.30pm. As this is the same evening as the next Parent Council Annual General Meeting, a quick AGM will be held at 5.30pm as an open function in the hall. (Post meeting note, the AGM was held in the usual conference room instead)

Posters to advertise the event will be sent out and circulated and especially reminding the cluster Primary Schools P6 and P7 parents to come along. This is a great opportunity to get the primary parents on board early. It will be slightly longer workshops this year of 20 minutes pushing for quality rather than quantity as some of the feedback indicated from the last event. Also, there will be no need to sign up for workshops beforehand this time making it easier and quicker. It is not as formal as a conference so it was suggested to change the name to highlight that it is more of an information evening for parents to find out more and to be able to support their children better. GF and MD are organising the event again and will order new posters with a new name and design and start advertising.

NN shared that there is a new National Action Plan from the Scottish government called Learning Together Scotland from 2018 until 2020. It outlines how to deliver targets and collaborating and contributing. The parents' needs to be lots more involved and participating in things they haven't been part of in the past like budget allocation as an example. PR is open for involvement and transparency and there is a limit of expectations on parents. RA said that it is a self selecting group that are willing to step up proactively and they cant get much more involved than they already are. NN said that some parents should do more and some can't to more. PR said that you can't force parents and if they are proactively seeking to be involved in their children's learning then that is enough. Perhaps there could be a way to measure how approachable, inclusive and dad friendly the school parents are.

#### **5. Finance Update**

Balance of bank account at 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 was £913.12.

PR said that there are several sofas/couches in school areas that don't comply with the fire regulations. It would be very expensive to buy new ones and something needs to be sorted quickly. DH will ask someone to come in and look at the fire hazard and if something can be done to keep the sofas. Cllr McGinn suggested speaking to Dean Mack about this as well.

Because Julie Robertson has left as a Parent council member there will be more new signatories needed. AM and BE will also be leaving next year. Donna Hill, Lyn Taylor and Julie Dall volunteered. AM to action.

#### **6. How Good is our School**

This is part of the Standard and Quality report that was circulated and can be found on the school website and on this [link](#). To save time, any questions or comments on this will be answered at a future Parent Council meeting.

#### **7. Area Partnership**

This was rolled over to the next meeting.

GF  
MD

DH

AM

## **8. School Improvement Plan**

The East Lothian Council local policies and school policies need to be in line with and shown in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This year's has seen the most robust and rigours SIP ever, delivering the best for Ross High. PR is very proud of the hard work from staff and pupils in delivering such a strong report. The full report can be found on the school website and on this [link](#). Highlighted were;

### 1.3: Leadership of Change

The school review was on a faculty level, very rigorous and similar to an inspection. This was very helpful although challenging. For example, East Lothian Council have a specialist who work across different schools and who spends two days looking at the Science Department's agenda, standard of learning and implementation in the classroom. This is about sharing good practice and a real improvement process.

Especially encouraging is the leadership and pupils where there are collegiate groups research based on a Friday. They are focusing on improving their own learning in their classes, asking good questions, for example, 'if I try this, how does it work?'

### 2.3: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The after school sessions are linked to learning and teaching with higher courses and taking away assessment including leadership programs.

Ross High Expected Standards leaflet with "Teacher will – Students will..." are displayed across the school and enlarged so it can't be missed. It has also been circulated to all parents, pupils and staff. It is about expecting higher results, meeting the needs of the pupils, clarity of use of mobile phones and consistency across the school. It is in line with the homework policy which has a minimum of three 20 minutes mathematics per children per week. These are tracked and monitored and cover numeracy, reading and maths.

The statistics for attendance only shows authorised and non-authorised absence. PR said that authorising time off depends on the circumstance and if the pupil has a good attendance record already. DM said that raising money for sponsored walks or absence because of sports are also included in the unauthorised statistics. DH mentioned the bad attendance on one of the senior school trips where some pupil's had taken the time to revise instead. DM said that this had however worked for junior years. PR welcomes suggestions from the parents about getting the attendance statistics higher. For school trips, they can happily take a whole year group on a bus somewhere or to do activity week instead.

There is also a new guidance structure and new intervention groups for S2-S3 especially.

### 3.1: Inclusion, Equality and Wellbeing

A Health and Wellbeing tracking has been introduced to classes taught by the Guidance Teachers (GT) using a SHANARRI wheel (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included). The pupils can identify where they are on the wheel on a regular basis to see if a pattern is highlighted. For example asking how safe or active they are feeling and action can then be taken in partnership with the pupils.

### 3.2: Raising Attainment and Achievement

An attainment pilot with a full review in December is underway for S1 in English and Maths. They don't have sets in maths and the Set 1-4 spectrum is large and they are also getting ready for National 5 maths. English works better because the same task can be set for all pupils and they can still work at different levels individually. PR feels it is important to aim for the top performers and not just teach the mid performers, however not everyone finds learning easy and the pupils all have mixed abilities. This trial is based on research in reading and excellence for everyone and the parents will be asked to be part of the review in December. The decision would then be made on

whether or not to continue with this format. LT asked how it could be measured? PR said that attainment data and tracking data is used as well as asking the pupils. DH said that it helps with mixed abilities where pupil's can be bored if they are not sufficiently challenged and then fall behind instead. LT said that the pupils are already used to mixed abilities from Primary Schools and are used to disruptions and working across the stages to support each other.

### **9. Fundraising**

The Parent Council members are keen to have a fundraiser as early as possible and a Bingo night was suggested on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Pupils could come too and have it as a family BYOB event with a top prize of a kindle fire or similar. Lots of prizes are needed so everyone was encouraged to start asking around. MD has a bingo machine and can organise a caller too. It was suggested to find something to raise funds for, getting S6 involved and perhaps even a Halloween theme.

JD suggested having a fundraiser to ask for outgrown prom-dresses and rent them to the pupils for a small hiring fee. It can be expensive to buy new dresses so this is great for anyone on a budget or who can't afford to buy expensive dresses and kilts. Dresses, kilts, blazers and suits can be handed in to the school office and PR will put out a statement for a swap shop to include school uniform blazers.

### **10. School Extension**

PR added School Extension to the agenda and presented the amended school extension plans with layout and pictures of what it could look like. There would be a glass front that opens up into a large grass area. Modern languages, Arts, Business, IT and new changing rooms with toilets will all be part of the new extension. PR showed some photos of what classrooms and the toilets could look like. Storage and bicycle storage are also included in the plans making sure it fits the purpose.

### **11. Parents' Queries**

There were none.

### **12. AOCB**

There were none.

### **Date of Next Meetings:**

Next Parent Council meeting is the AGM and will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

PR