



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 30th October 2018

Present: G Walshe (Chair), N Neighbour (Vice Chair), A Muir (Treasurer), L Taylor, D Hill, M Macdonald, D Middlemass, H Boyle, W Thornton

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), L Donohoe, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr T Trotter, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr K McLeod, Cllr C McGinn, B Sanchez, K Furr, J Dall, B Esamal, R Averbuch

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising Two amendments MD instead of DM and take out the statistical percentage. The minutes of the meeting on 28th August 2018 were approved. Proposed by NN and Seconded by DH</p> <p>3. Final School Extensions Plans Presentation PR presented the final extension plans showing a general plan and a two stories extension with pictures and detailed drawings. It has been based on feedback from staff and parents and all views have been considered within budget. The last thing to be signed off is the changing room that would be split and has unisex toilets and changing rooms as far as possible. The social area will be moving to the corner instead because it works better when the faculties are kept together. Art would have open windows with views and an open ceiling with an industrial contemporary look. External funding has been secured for the bike storage and it ties in with the Area Partnership and RA is leading this important work. Cllr SA is happy to support this work together with RA and with the East Lothian Active Travel group. It has been an interesting process and everyone has been kept aware as it has changed a few times to work better as a whole. Pupils have been involved via the Pupil Voice and Leadership teams. The work is due to start in June 2019, and will be finished in two years. It will be a bit of a challenge for the school to function as normal, with some disruption as expected, especially for the art department. However the end result would be fantastic. To make sure it is as smooth as possible, the Loch Centre would be used as a backup. A meeting with Enjoy Leisure is due soon to discuss bookings and some facilities would be running trials beforehand. This is something that is thought to continue even after the extension is completed. One of the challenges has been the numbers, for example to accommodate 150 pupils at a time in the changing room so more practical spaces are needed rather than aesthetics/architectural niceness.</p> <p>4. Common School Day Common School day Consultation has just been released. This would be a massive change for Ross High. PR asked to add this to the agenda for parent's feedback. Primary Schools and Secondary Schools are lining up their school hours to make it the same for everyone by 2020. The reason is to better accommodate the increase in pupils and to help close the attainment gap. Also to be better aligned with hours of Universities and Colleges to be able to offer a bigger variety of courses in the partnership arrangements.</p>	<p>VB</p>

1. Move to align hours

The changes in hours for Ross High would be from a 27,5 hours week to a 32 period week of 50min and 10min registration in the morning. The start time would be the same with a little shorter finish Monday through Thursday and a little later finish on a Friday. The Council arranges the transport and the morning buses stay the same. This would mean a bigger difference to the staff than the pupils.

2. Move to seven subjects

Six subjects are offered at the moment however with the increased hours, seven or eight subjects might be added to fill the gap. Lots of benefits have been seen to only have six subjects, especially in 5th year. Ross High doesn't see a dip where other schools offering seven or eight subjects usually have this. Sometimes there can be a dip in 6th year instead.

Discussions followed on how to manage more subjects and what choices could be made. Because of a limit on space and budget, the pupils sometimes share 2 or 3 levels in the same room with the same Teacher running the subjects in units and combine the different units for Highers and National qualifications. For example there could be a 4th year cohort and a 5th year cohort with five subjects in 5th year. The National 5 Higher needs to be filled with something, as it otherwise would be lots of extra time making it tricky, although doable if working across the stages. If for example there were too few pupil's for Advanced Higher then the Curriculum could be offered at other local Secondary Schools, making sure everyone is able to have their first choices.

They can also do three periods of a subject for three months rather than per week, which offers more flexibility, and the pupils' can still keep the same Teacher and perhaps gain more insight in that subject? More Highers would also be a benefit because it gives more points for going into further education although no place need eight qualifications.

GW thanked PR for including the Parent Council member's and taking their questions and opinions into account. PR thanked everyone for asking good questions and giving feedback and will liaise with the ELC Education Department in making the decision that would best benefit the school.

The Consultation is open for anyone to reply to and there are two drop-in sessions scheduled for anyone who wants to find out more. Cllr SA said that it wont be implemented until next year the earliest because it is only just at Consultation phase and would go to the Council after that and if going ahead, all schools should have it by 2020. The school has already started to discuss the options, which is a big step and also need to look at how it would be funded. Once the Consultation is through it would give a much better idea of what it would look like.

5. Head Teacher's update

Lots of great things have taken place and it is a challenge to find the balance of taking part in everything and reducing costs as far as possible. As almost fully staffed, the budget only allows so much and everyone is engaged in reducing costs and at the same time saying yes to as many trips as possible. A good problem to have.

In staffing, the Guidance Teacher Miss Dalgleish has now left and a new Principal Teacher of Guidance has started. Because of these changes, some pupils are unsure of who their GDS Teacher is so will make sure it is clear for everyone. A new PE Teacher has started and also staff has returned from paternity leave.

Ross High's Human Rights team went to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Geneva. Part of the team was 12-year-old Hannah featured in the news world wide as being the youngest moderator on global discussions for human rights. Well done to everyone that went, a brilliant team representing the school.

The Junior Leaders team presented at the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow.

example a suitable space in Tranent for a skate park. DM said that some funds needs to go to the Education Department as well as Area Partnership and there is always a chance that a small group would secure the money even though the will is there to broaden it out.

There are a number of Consultation days in November in different locations around the area. VB to email it out to the Parent Council members to spread the word and NN will post on social media.

VB
NN

9. School Improvement Plan (SIP)

PR is very please with the SIP this year which is very solid. All the staff attended the Preston Lodge Learning Festival and is now looking to make it an annual event. The staff are solely committed to pedagogy and teaching in the classroom and are really pushing themselves all the time. The school is running really well with the roles and structure and PR said that this is a good school and is really on the right path to be a great school. DH said that she could really see a difference over the years. There is so much going on with activities, clubs and sports. AM said that the Teachers genuinely care about the pupil's and that it shows.

10. Fundraising

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 1st December 2018. NN wants to do the wine and water stall again this year and just need bottles and bags. There would also be a Santa's grotto as usual.

The Burns night will be held on the 25th January 2019. Speakers have already signed up who are really good.

NN asked about the postponed Bingo night? PR said that money isn't an issue so happy to re-schedule it for the end of the term or September 2019.

11. Parents' Queries

There were none.

12. AOCB

There was none.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on 27th November 2018.