



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th March 2019**

Present: G Walshe (Chair), N Neighbour (Vice Chair), M MacDonald, J Dall, D Middlemass, R Averbuch, Wendy Thornton, Heather Boyle, B Esamal

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), K McLeod (Cllr), F Dugdale (Cllr), C McGinn (Cllr), L Donohoe (minutes)

Apologies: V Brown (Clerk), Beatriz Sanchez, Lyn Taylor, Aileen Muir, Kirsten Furr, Donna Hill, Shamin Akhtar (Cllr)

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies as above. Note - VB being absent meant that any late apologies sent to PC mailbox were not been available.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The minutes of the meeting on 26th February 2019 were approved. Proposed by JD and seconded by NN</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Polytunnel costs provided by FC, arising from fundraising discussions at last meeting. PR - cost of S6 raised with Education Steering Group. Felt to be useful; S5/6s in other ELC schools keen to participate. Perhaps look for help from Lena Hutton re ways to move this forward.</p> <p>Extension meeting - not huge turnout, but useful conversations between RA and architect. ELC keen to incorporate bike storage and talking with Sustrans re. funding., architects already talking to Iain Reid and ELC transport dept. Architects also talked to pupils and engaged well with them. Pupils raised valid questions and had good ideas to put forward.</p> <p>3. Dog fouling on Ross High playing field</p> <p>All agreed parent council would fund a dog waste bin. AM has been liaising with ELC about this. PR reiterated RHS would be happy to fund a bin, but felt it would have more impact if parent council did so. Public outrage arisen from a video on social media. ELC had been approached by local running group, and has taken up this issue. Discussion around ways to stop this antisocial behaviour. Hopefully new initiative coming out soon from ELC - more news to follow. Need community groups, parent council and local sports group to pursue. RA mentioned green flag system in primary schools, but this is not eradicating problem. CMcG mentioned that wardens do have the power to visit houses if they receive accurate information. Wardens can issue warnings, without viewing incident themselves. KMCL - public don't want to challenge others they see creating the problems. Playing fields/parks should have "All Dogs Must be on Leads" signs up. FD questioned whether school playing fields are able to forbid dogs - but PR feels this land is part of the community.</p> <p>4. Head Teacher's update Staffing - on track for a full staff complement next session, despite recruitment crisis this year. Recently RHS has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruited 1 Maths and 2 English teachers ● Recruited new drama teacher, Lindsay Kelly, who has now started. ● Bid for a number of NQTs; will have to wait to see outcome ● Currently recruiting for ASN; current level of response v. positive <p>Positive Destination stats now out - best ever, although 'Insight' doesn't update til Feb.</p>	

STEM event well attended.

Football trip to Manchester - excellent, and credit given to pupils for behaviour.

League Tables

Soul-destroying, damaging to staff morale and misleading. RHS did not come out well, based solely on numbers of pupils achieving 5 Highers. More important to strive for excellence, day in, day out. Damage is done by people who do not have a full understanding of what schools deliver, or of education today. Many people on social media commented saying these league tables are out of date and made positive comments about Ross.

Skills Development Scotland inspection across ELC. DYW (Developing Young Workforce). Rated 3 VG (phenomenal). Fiona Robertson gave RHS excellent feedback.

Fashion Show Conference

Excellent behaviour and great feedback

Supporting P7 pupils

262 coming in next year! LEAPS in speaking to senior pupils, followed by 40 pupils

Paired reading programme: seniors with lower years

Prelim results analysis. Mainly positive; intervention classes running on Tues and Thurs afternoons. Countless options for after school revision. Easter study classes running again this year. Target/invite individual students. Good response overall.

SQA - music and PE assessments already under way. Attainment levels in PE are v. high. Feedback v good. Drama N5 already happened, 'H' taking place tomorrow.

FES - School looking slightly 'tired' due to huge footfall and could do with a bit of work. Front of flooring to be redone; more bright colours in school. Starting now with a thought to future extension - more comfortable and calm. By end of Easter, hoping to see some changes.

Year of High Standards - hope to make SIP more robust. All faculty leaders and promoted staff will be coming together on Friday 26th April + 45 others. There will be evaluation and looking at HGIOS. PR looking for some parent council members to create robust SIP.

Oxford Residential Programme - Brian Small introduced this programme. All S3 parents invited. 10 pupils came forward, and put in v hard. work. 2 chosen, but all 10 will be recognised for their outstanding efforts.

5. The Parental Engagement Strategy 2019

NN - went to Dr. Janet Goodall's book launch on Friday 22/3 at Moray House - author of "Engaging Parents - 100 Ideas for Primary Teachers" and "Narrowing the Achievement Gap Parental Engagement with Children's Learning". Author discussed parental engagement, the idea behind SIPs, and conversations around learning. Raised the point 'education vs schooling', need to think about language/culture surrounding this and shifting the framework/culture for our young people.

Discussion around contacting parents for positive reasons as well as negative. Merit system is in usage, but staffing capacity does not always allow to be used to its full potential. Parent council members fed back that positive comments from teachers do have an effect.

No response as yet from parental engagement survey. Need the 3 main priorities, but also other areas to work on. Discussion on engaging with dads. Looking at possibility with working with AP and Dads Work. RA - it's on AP agenda.

Still considering the idea of inviting parents into school for a day, as part of parental engagement. G Forsyth still working on this idea.

6. Finance Update

Easy Fundraising of £76.74 & tiny interest credit of £0.12 brings the balance of the account to £790.09.

Fundraising request for dog waste bin received; in process.

7. Fundraising

Tesco blue token scheme an option, but it can take 6-9 months. Winner gets £4k, taking part gets £1k. PR suggested revamping the quad area outside the social area. RA mentioned that Sports Scotland provide funds for updating eqpt.

JD - Rag bag week? Funds raised based on weight of stuff taken away.

8. Area Partnership

DM now vice-chair for Fa'Side. Next meeting 2/4, at the Town Hall in Tranent. Going over budgets. Active Travel, Beat the Streets. Meetings are open to public, although no vote.

PR - RHS been successful in their bid for funding towards cycling program.

9. Parents' Queries

JD passed on feedback from S1 parents' night. If you have a child already in the school, the process is much easier. If not, it can be quite traumatic. Child came home telling parent they couldn't get appointments because teacher's time was full. PR - issue surrounding inconsistency of when forms were given out to pupils. Some teachers have too many children to give out a 5 min slot for every pupil. Any parents who contacted PR about the issue were given a slot. Booking system would help. Spoken to other schools who use these - fairer, but not failsafe, esp due to size of roll. PL piloted this. Current GDPR issues. Raised with other HTs and hopeful of progress. Initially raised over a year ago. Parents understand that time is tight, but maintain concerns around unfairness of getting appointments. Online booking system should alleviate this. PR has asked Business Manager to make parents aware of appointment system. Feedback has been taken on board.

10. AOCB

Support from the Start Uniform Bank will take donations of good quality, pre-loved or brand new uniforms. Can be handed into Carefree Kids (Elphinstone Rd). Suitable for primary and high school uniforms. Discussion about whether people had to be referred in order to benefit. PR - if DM wanted to promote this, RHS and PC would be happy to distribute material.

NN - need to think about successors for those PC members standing down. Potentially new Chair, VC, Treasurer.

Date of Next Meeting:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on 30th April 2019.