



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Tuesday 28th May 2019**

**Present:** G Walshe (Chair), N Neighbour (Vice Chair), A Muir (Treasurer), R Averbuch, D Hill, J Dall, B Esamal, M Macdonald, W Thornton, H Boyle, L Taylor, B Sanchez, D Middlemass,

**In Attendance:** C Laud (Deputy Head Teacher), Cllr C Hoy, L Donohoe, S Fitzpatrick, V Brown (Clerk)

**Apologies:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), Cllr G Mackett, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr J McMillan

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b> GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the new Councillor for Haddington and Lammermuir, Cllr Craig Hoy. Apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b> The funding requests are being processed with the dog waste bin still going through procurement at the Council. The polythene for the poly-tunnel has been bought and the total cost came to £168. The BBQ has also been bought at a total cost of £248, which was cheaper than the estimate. The Parent Council (PC) has therefore also approved the funding of the gas for it.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 30th April 2019 were approved. Proposed by HB and Seconded by NN</p> <p><b>3. Senior School Reporting</b> The senior school reporting for S4, S5 and S6 is being looked at. At the moment they have a tracking report with bullet points in October time, which is being written early at the start of the new session. There is also another report just before Christmas and the final report just after the prelim results in February. The suggestion is to change it slightly and ask the Parent Council's feedback and views on the proposed changes for 2019/20.</p> <p>The suggested change is to skip the first report in October because it hasn't proven to be the most effective since it is being written too early for the teacher's to have a chance to get to know the pupils. The idea is to replace it with a detailed early warning flagging that gives a clear picture, only to the pupils that are showing early signs of concerns. Everyone will then have two smaller reports per year together with a parent evening where any concerns can be discussed face to face with the teachers, before Christmas-time and after the Prelim in February.</p> <p>The idea behind it is that speaking to the teachers and discussing in person to find out each individual's progress would be more valuable. Also a chance to find out what options are available regarding subjects to choose if someone is struggling or dropping. The teachers will also call the parents who are unable to come to the parent evening so they don't miss out on the update.</p> <p>The Guidance teacher will still check what pupils are off track over subjects and invite their parents in for a chat or the parents are welcome to make an appointment to discuss concerns.</p> <p>The PC members were positive to the changes however asked to make sure that the parents who are unable to make the parents evenings are followed up with the phone call and not forgotten about.</p> <p>The parents approved the changes and it will be taken forward to be implemented with a start for the session 2020/21.</p>	

#### **4. Head Teacher's update**

##### Positive messages:

A number of pupils attended the Developing Young Workforce (DYW) conference representing the school being Right Respecting and Human Rights defenders.

The pupils running the study leave program organised an afternoon tea event for staff and pupils.

Great success in the Rotary music competition with winners in violin and voice.

A "little-large" competition was held between Ross High and the cluster Primary schools in various sports which was a great success.

The Duke of Edinburgh awards keeps growing every year and the pupils had a great time kayaking, climbing, hillwalking and playing a golf match at Archerfield among other things. The Parent Council members asked if the info to enroll could be emailed out to parents as well as informing the pupils since some had missed signing up. CL will remind teachers to help spread the word and info is also included in the pack for S3 pupils. More info is available from the Council. Volunteers are welcome as well as donations of tents and outdoor equipment. The PC offered to help with funding if needed.

##### Sports:

- Ross High came second to North Berwick in the youth games.
- The school won the golf competition held
- In Football, both U14 and U15 made it to the final, great effort.
- Also in football, four pupils from S3 are in the Scottish Football Cup for U15.

##### Staffing:

New teachers in English, Maths, Science, Geography and Graphics, Design & Manufacture (GDM).

A teacher in Home Economics is still vacant and the school is working on plans to have it available to all pupils. Edinburgh College will continue to deliver blocks of cooking until the vacancy is filled.

#### **5. The Parental Engagement Strategy 2019**

The questionnaire results are in for the Parental Engagement Survey done by the school as well as the Council. The one sent out from the school had a low uptake because parents thought they had already replied since there were a few surveys circulating at the same time, so these will be looked at together for wider feedback.

One of the areas of improvement highlighted was "a warm welcome to the school". This has already been implemented with the recent employed receptionist who has years of experience in customer service and will be an addition to the staff and positive for the welcome of the school.

The feedback was overall positive and will be analysed to see where the differences are and what areas to concentrate on to approve. The wording of some of the survey-questions will also be looked at to try to minimise the "don't know" replies.

#### **6. Finance Update**

Balance of bank account at 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 is £373.18.

The dog waste bins have not been paid for yet and the estimated cost is £110.

AM is now stepping down as the Treasurer because her youngest is leaving the school. GW thanked her for all the years of commitment to the PC. AM is planning to come along to the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> September to present the Financial report for 2018/19. Also the new signatories for the bank account should be changed by then.

## **7. Fundraising**

The successful Burns night in January is still growing and is very well received. This will continue every year and the monies raised supports the yearly S6 trip to London.

A quiz night or a prize-bingo night was discussed and a date was set for 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. This would be organised nearer the time and could tie in with duke of Edinburgh.

The PC members asked if there was something the school or pupil's would like because it could be easier to fundraise for something specific. The pupils can come along too and use it as a good opportunity to see how it works and where the funds go.

Easy fundraising is easy to use however you need to remember to log in to it for it to work.

## **8. Area Partnership**

The Area Partnership (AP) has an active travel sub-group who goes round the Primary Schools and is helping the school with a bike enterprise. They have converted a bike into a smoothie making machine and is bringing it along to Fayres, increasing peoples knowledge of the local community and what the AP does. Contact Simon Davie to use it.

The AP will decide on bids and where the monies are spent at the next meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Anyone can come along and have a say to what the monies are spent on and if you are a member of the AP, you can also vote on the bids that interest you.

The Ross High pupil's that went to Geneva defending Human Rights are leading on the importance of children's rights and is coming up with a pledge to the AP.

## **9. Parents' Queries**

A parent question has come in regarding volunteering at the new S5 Parent Conference where parents can attend. CL clarified that this is just an induction day for seniors and is called a conference because Senior leaderships candidates are coming up and interviews and presentations will be held. There will be no volunteering, merely getting to grips with classes for just starting back.

Another question about the Activities week where some of the activities were more expensive than others. CL said that the school puts out a number of funded places for pupils that need it and the monies comes from the sponsored walk and the PEF fund.

## **10. AOCB**

CL circulated a copy of the School Improvement Plan for 2019/20 and highlighting the schools context, aims and values. CL also thanked everyone who came along to the SIP Friday meeting to give feedback and highlighting the top priorities for the school to work on over the year, which is included in the SIP. The coming year will have a strong focus on attendance and look at success stories from other schools.

CL asked if a member of the PC could be a guest judge on 30<sup>th</sup> May at the S2 pupils World Cup challenge event. MM volunteered.

There are vacancies for the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer posts for the PC and notes of interest have been received for the Chair and Treasurer.

The 13<sup>th</sup> June is a transition parents night for the P7 pupils and the PC members suggested having a PC representative going to get the new parents on board early.

The June meeting will be held at Giancarlos Italian restaurant on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

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

Next Parent Council meeting will be on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.