



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 27th August 2019

Present: L Donohoe (Acting Chair), D Hill, J Dall, M Macdonald, W Thornton, H Boyle
D Middlemass

In Attendance: G Walshe (Retired Chair), P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), Cllr G Mackett, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr C McGinn
S Fitzpatrick, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: L Taylor, Cllr C Hoy, Cllr S Akhtar, R Averbuch

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for all their support over the years to her as the Chair as well as to the Parent Council (PC). The new Chairperson can't be confirmed until the AGM on 24th September 2019 so an Acting Chair was suggested. Lynn Donohoe volunteered and as the only candidate, was unanimously chosen to be the Acting Chair for the PC until the AGM. GW thanked LD and wished her all the best as the Chair. Apologies as above.</p> <p>The position as Treasurer also needs filled and everyone was asked to consider taking this on at the AGM.</p> <p>Paul thanked GW for all the support over the years and also gave her a proper send off in June.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The minutes of the meeting on 28th May 2019 were approved. Proposed by DH and Seconded by JD</p> <p>3. School Values The school is continuing working on their School Improvement Plan and feel that the values & aims are too many and want to scale it down to 3-4, taking into account the ones that the cluster Primary Schools have.</p> <p>A 10 min brainstorm and discussion followed where the PC members suggestions were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect• Perseverance/ Resilience/ Strive• Success/ Aspiration/ Achievement <p>PR thanked the PC members for their advice and for their suggestion of having a logo similar to "teach, inspire and grow" to clarify to people what the school stands for.</p> <p>4. Head Teacher's update The school has 255 first year pupils, which is the highest number so far. They have now all settled in well after some teething issues and some pupil's choosing to make changes in their course choices after the exam results.</p> <p>Staff inset training invited Andy Vass as speaker who had been a Head teacher and written many books. He was talking to staff about how to better communicate, motivate, showing respect and promote positive behavior.</p> <p>The Duke of Edinburgh awards have started their expeditions and have grown very popular with the pupils.</p> <p>Music has been taken a hit with the new fees however is still going strong and pupil's are keen to build a band and are practicing after school.</p> <p>Lunch clubs are running thanks to committed staff with for example 45 min of football.</p>	

The Senior Celebration of Success evening is held on Wednesday 11th September at 7pm.

Exam results

ASN attainment is up with all pupils being certificated for their needs in school and working towards NAT1 or NAT2. They worked tremendously hard, well done!

There has been an increase in the number of pupils that are taking five qualifications or more.

Nine pupils achieved straight A in NAT5, and one pupil is going to Cambridge, well done!

Numeracy and Maths have seen the best results in the history of the school as far back as we can see. Well done!

As expected, S5 higher is down and S6 had the best results ever with 20% achieving at least one Advanced Higher. Positive destinations are at 96%, great results.

Staffing

There are six new Teachers and three NQT and they are all settling in really well.

PT and DHT post is coming up and PC members are needed on the recruitment panel. LD has now had the Recruitment & Selection training as well as DM and MM.

PR is looking into creative solutions for Home economics and how to make it more attractive.

Shared vision; PR held a presentation of the plans in the coming years with highlights from the School Improvement Plan, Standards and Qualities report, Curriculum and Visions & Aims. Also the code of learning and positive ethos in school.

The Curriculum reinforces the plans for common school day and alternative provision and this year will be used for analysis starting the common school day for 2020/21.

2019/20 is the year of attendance to remind all pupils how important it is to come into school. 95% attendance is losing out on 19 school days per year, almost 4 weeks.

School extension

The building work on the extension will start on 30th September for the coming year. The new space is really needed now and the school roll is coming up to 1200 pupils in 2025. Everyone will work hard to keep disruptions to a minimum making sure there's still access to the astro and the playing fields. The main games hall and assembly hall will be used for drama and PE and also looking for additional areas for pupils to have lunch.

5. The Parental Engagement Strategy 2019

Annual Parental Engagement Conference, Understanding our School will be held on Tuesday 24th September 5.30 – 8pm. The format will be workshops and also new for this year is an added mini lesson where parents can do a task for 20min. The PC will help advertise to get as many P6 and P7 parents on board early.

6. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 25th August 2019 is £373.27.

The dog waste bins have not been paid for yet and the estimated cost is £110. The Parent Council will wait to hear from Sharon Peel and the East Lothian Council about this.

7. Fundraising

The PC members decided not to go ahead with the Bingo night fundraiser that was proposed on the 4th October and will wait till next year instead.

GF said that someone has approached the school about donating money. A discussion was held in how to best be able to accommodate this and Cllr CM will ask his contacts and Cllr FD can speak to the legal team.

It was suggested to do a ragbag collection and the PC members will look into this because of storage of bags and how to best have them collected.

The successful Burns night will be held on Friday 24th January 2020.

Cllrs
CM,
FD

The Ross High Christmas Fayre will have a PC run table with water and wine.

The Sponsored walk is held on Thursday 12th September 2019.

8. Area Partnership

The next Area Partnership (AP) meeting is the AGM and is being held on 22nd October 2019 in at Tranent town hall, Church street.

The bid made to the AP for a Family Support Officer to help with attendance was successful. A full time position is now available and good to get someone in soon. PR said thanks to everyone for voting on the bid, as it will make a big difference.

Fa'side Active travel group as an AP subgroup is having a meeting tomorrow night on 28th August at 5.30pm.

The AP has been approached about funding bike storage at the school as part of the extension however this was rejected because there are too few pupil's cycling to school. The reason being lack of safe storage for bikes however also travel and safe cycling routes needs to be looked into. Schools, AP, Sustrans, Community Council's and Active travel are all working together for a change in culture.

9. Parents' Queries

A Parent question about pupils not having PE on the schedule in 5th year? PR said that it is not on the timetable however they can choose to study it as a NAT5.

10. AOCB

Cll GM said that the pupil's littering at lunchtime is a big problem. PR said that this is a challenge and that there are areas that are know to be on-going problems for littering and CCTV has been added to one of these areas. PR will continue to remind pupils and talk about safety, respect and littering before they are let on the high street.

The community can help by adults picking up litter, the Council can help by emptying litterbins and shops can help by being mindful of possible litter from lunch wrapping.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be the AGM on 24th September 2019 at 5.30-6pm. This is on the same night as the Understanding our school conference hence the earlier time.