



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Tuesday 28th January 2020**

**Present:** L Donohoe (Chair), W Thornton (Vice Chair), B Sanchez (Treasurer), D Hill, J Dall, M Macdonald, Lynn Taylor

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), Cllr C McGinn, G Kenzie, M Harrington, V Brown (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr T Trotter, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr C Hoy, Cllr J McMillan, R Averbuch, H Boyle, K Furr, G Forsyth, K McFarlane, D Middlemass,

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b> LD welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b> For the records, it was noted that the minutes from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved at the meeting on Tuesday 28th November 2019. They were Proposed by DH and Seconded by SF.</p> <p>The yearly Burns night had to be postponed this year because of the work on the extension and not being able to find an alternative venue.</p> <p>The Christmas Fayre was a great success this year again with the 'wine or water' table.</p> <p>The minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved. Proposed by WT and Seconded by BS</p> <p><b>3. Extension update</b> The East Lothian Council has given a detailed update of the extension build. It has made great progress and the delay is due to completion of the legal agreements and lenders approvals. Cllr CM said that it is a top propriety for the Council and the builders to minimise the delay and they are working hard to get the legal paperwork in place before the Easter break.</p> <p>PR is working hard to make sure the pupils are safe and that the school can accommodate the increased roll for the start of the session 2020/21, and is planning a visit to a nearby high school with similar set up. It is a busy school, especially at break time and important to set a schedule that will work for the pupils, teachers and classroom space for each subject. There are several plans that would work in creating the extra space needed, for example using part of the library, Loch centre, Fraser Centre or last resort is portable cabins because they are expensive and other things within the budget would need to be taken out.</p> <p>It is only temporary and PR thanked parents and staff for being supportive, committed and proactive of the learning and teaching, safety and curriculum.</p> <p><b>4. Head Teacher's update</b> <u>Staffing</u> The Modern Studies teacher is leaving and a new teacher has been recruited and is starting so there is no gap in the learning and teaching. A Home and Economics teacher has also started, which is great news and it is making a difference already. A temporary Principal Teacher of PE has started to support during the extension work and there is new Support staff as well.</p> <p>The interview for a permanent Principal Teacher in Science is starting soon and LD will be on the panel, representing the Parent Forum.</p>	

## Sports

There are lots of sports achievements and the pupils are doing really well representing Ross High in for example, rugby, football and beating Preston Lodge in hockey last weekend.

## Events

Senior prelims are going well and some have already been marked. The pupils had a positive and useful talk and the hope is that this will continue every year.

Some of the 6<sup>th</sup> years pupils are starting to hear back from their University applications already, which is very positive.

The Curriculum evening was well attended and had great feedback and lots of positives around school.

Interviews for S2 course choices are going well and the pupils are encouraged to choose the courses they want. The school is running a software that gives the most effective column for each pupils choices, which means that more pupils gets the choices they want.

The curriculum is changing to 7 subjects for S4 – S6 starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. There will also be an enrichment program, which offers a subject just one hour a week starting from S3. It is challenging to find out what courses are needed so there will be interviews scheduled from 19<sup>th</sup> February onwards so all parents can come in to have a meeting with their children to discuss the combination of choices that would suit each pupil best.

The school core values have been approved and are incorporated in the code of conduct. Merits around these four core values below will be linked to an internal flagging system that focus on positives and reward house points for the pupils going over and beyond.

- Respect
- Perseverance
- Integrity
- Positivity

The hashtag will be kept #proudtobeross because this is well established. The launch of the core values, the new internal flagging system, and the curriculum is on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

## **5. Finance Update**

Balance of bank account at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 is £373.37.

The Parent Council members are keen to help to pay for something before end of term and welcome funding requests.

## **6. Fundraising**

Fundraising ideas were discussed and the Parent Council decided to support;

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Race night on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- Burns night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

### Duke of Edinburgh

The Parent Council members are keen to support the Duke of Edinburgh this year because the S6 pupils have chosen a cheaper event for their trip, there are funds available to support other things in school.

### Race night

Having a race night was discussed and how it works in selling raffle tickets with horses and jockeys. DH will check if the rugby club can be booked for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

### Burns night

The Parent Council will start planning for next years Burns night now in booking a venue. Because of the delay in the extension work, it might be better to wait another year and have the first Burns night back in the school hall for 2022 instead. DH will book a venue for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 and it needs to be able to accommodate 13 tables and 120

people. The profit will go towards the S6 London trip in spring time 2021.

#### Charitable status update

The Parent Council is keen to change into charitable status, to do more fundraising and is looking for information and ideas of what others have done, to find a suitable model. LD had a meeting with Preston Lodge High School who has set up a charitable trust, rather than having a Parent Council with charitable status. Highlights of the meeting were discussed.

PR and LD also had a meeting to establish what would work and how it needs to look like to suit the school and the Parent Council and are trying to find someone who can help and come and speak to them.

Cllr CM suggested sending a representative to the 'Meet the funders' day and conference to speak to other schools to see how it works for them?

VB will speak to Humble Primary school PTA to see how they are doing it and forward info to PR about local companies that could give money to fundraisers and schools.

VB

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

The Area Partnership AGM was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and Bill Axon is now the chairperson. Donald Grant has co-opted to stay on as a member.

#### **8. Parents' Queries**

A parent question about the fire alarm that went off before Christmas. PR said that it was a heat alarm that set it off and the gate had just been locked by the builders, due to end of term. The gate was opened straight away and PR had an immediate meeting with the team, putting measures in place and it will never happen again.

A parent question about attendance and a class had won the same award twice? PR said that it is positive that pupils that are off are being talked about and will remind all pupils of the rules again and about registration. The attendance statistics has had a 0.5% increase from the first few months of being the year of attendance and will be a great success if the trend continues. PR is really pleased and it shows that the work being done has an impact.

A parent question about pupils being able to answer the questions in exams? PR said that the skills of how to answering the question, understanding the type of question and how to answer it comes after the knowledge developed over the years in high school and is not expected straight away in S1-S2. Command words like describe, analyse etc are a big focus and the answer can be different in different subjects.

#### **9. AOCB**

Preston Lodge High School Parent Council would like to send representatives to a meeting to see how things are done here. LD will speak to them.

LD

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

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020