



**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
Meeting of Tuesday 27th November 2019**

**Present:** L Donohoe (Chair), W Thornton (Vice Chair), Debbie Middlemass, M Macdonald, R Averbuch, D Hill, B Sanchez (Treasurer)

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr C Hoy, M Harrington, S Fitzpatrick (minutes)

**Apologies:** V Brown (Clerk), J Dall, L Taylor, Heather Boyle, Cllrs S Akhtar and K McLeod

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b> LD welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b> The minutes of the meeting on 29th October 2019 were approved, taking into account a slight change to AP section (Chair to be elected at next AGM, not November) Proposed by DH and Seconded SF.</p> <p><b>3. Extension Update</b> PR briefed parent council on status of extension. Grouting to be finished by Christmas. Demolitions have taken place, PR taking photos of progress. Dates suggested for sports facilities' possible finish is Oct 2020 - quicker than anticipated. Noise levels have been bad, but hope this will improve. PR praised staff and pupils for their acceptance of noise and disruption so far.</p> <p><b>4. School Values</b> Around 300 responses received from the consultation on new school values. By far the leader was 'Respect', with around 98% of responses choosing that first. Decision made to condense two popular choices of 'Responsible' &amp; 'Honesty' into 'Integrity'. Next choice - 'Positivity'. Next most popular options condensed to create 'Endeavour', creating acronym 'RIPE'. Core values to be linked closely with merit system. Positive feedback, e.g. phone calls home, HT certificates. Move away from demerit system</p> <p><b>5. Head Teacher's update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing: new teacher for ASN + 4 ASN support staff, but no good news on Home Economics teacher recruitment. Looking to advertise 2 x PSWs and 2 PSAs.</li> <li>• Budget looking on track at the moment.</li> <li>• 85 pupils went along to Jobs Roadshow - best turnout ever</li> <li>• Pupils and staff from ASN base, in collaboration with Street Soccer Scotland will be coaching pupils in Inchkeith. A fantastic opportunity for both schools.</li> <li>• Music dept thanked for their involvement in East Lothian's Battle of the Bands. The event was a huge success; commitment on staff and pupils evident. A real credit to all schools in East Lothian</li> <li>• Ben Keane represented Ross HS at Venture Jam, (and won!) with a strategy for tackling food waste at the St. Enoch Centre in Glasgow. Their idea will be put into practise there.</li> <li>• Sport - lots!</li> <li>• Staff v S6 house dodgeball. Great fun had by all. Staff won easily!</li> <li>• Staff v S6 Christmas volleyball tournament scheduled for 11/12</li> <li>• Swimming. Ross HS won 7 out of 8 trophies, including several meet records! Great to see our pupils supporting their school teammates, but also their swimming teammates from other schools.</li> <li>• McMillan Concert - Ross HS students performed very well and also helped with the organising, and were a credit to the school</li> <li>• Junior Leadership team -15 new S1s appointed</li> <li>• Christmas</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Thinking of You at Christmas' appeal launched</li> <li>• Foodbank appeal also launched</li> <li>• Senior Christmas Dance Tues 17th December</li> <li>• Christmas Fayre Sat 7th December; stalls by S1 Enterprise classes</li> <li>• '12 days of Kindness' to be repeated this year after last year's success</li> <li>• Christmas Concert 11th Dec</li> <li>• Senior Parent's Evening Thurs 5th Dec</li> <li>• S3 Parent's night saw a positive turnout - stats still to come in</li> <li>• Curriculum Consultation Evening Thurs 12th Dec 7-8pm</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Finance update</b> No update. Need to find out where bank statements are being sent at present. All signatories established.</p> <p><b>7. Fundraising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burns Night - should have confirmation by 27/11 re Rannoch House for the venue on Fri 24/01/20. No bar staff, but BYOB. Funds to be raised for DoE extra equipment. Ask Tracy re catering, or parent council organise? Perhaps get hospitality pupils to serve food? Initial idea of cost £25/head. Donna will contact the band. Poss reduce from 3 course meal to 2 to keep costs down and reduce pressure on catering staff. Raffle &amp; Heads/Tails for extra fundraising, plus 'throw £1 at bottle' all put forward as good fundraisers. Dancers might be a good addition. MH may be able to organise.</li> <li>• Christmas Fayre Sat 7th Dec Donations of wine and empty bottles were brought to meeting, with promises of more on day. WT helping all morning, with LD there early on, and SF available too. Discussed one person not being left to count money alone.</li> <li>• Charitable Status Documents forwarded from Bev Skirrow gave a starting point for exploring options for charitable status, and LD outlined what would be required from the parent council. Explained that this can't be switched on and off and it's a serious consideration. PL have set up a Charitable Trust and would be useful to speak to those involved in setting this up to get an idea of why they chose to do this. LD spoke to STRIVE who were v helpful; can approach them for further guidance. General discussion about accounts having to be audited, and felt that this would not be a barrier. More info required before decision can be made if we choose this route or not, but general consensus was that we can do this. Would be useful for helping secure sponsorship for House competitions. Many companies will only donate to a registered charity. May be helpful for securing funding for Athletics next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>8. Area Partnership</b> Active Travel meeting on 22 January Health and Wellbeing meeting on 10 December Fa'side Young Defenders gave the update: There were 5 main issues that we highlighted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The lack of recycling facilities in the area</li> <li>2. Parking on pavements</li> <li>3. The public toilets being shut early</li> <li>4. Buses and lack of service to Elphinstone, also the cost from villages to Tranent.</li> <li>5. High volume of unhealthy take away and lack of healthier options, with this, the amount of plastic tubs getting used and binned.</li> </ol> <p>Chair Nominations - 2 nominations were received. Robert McNeil and Bill Oxon. Because of the unavailability of Bill to attend the proposed AGM in December, this will now take place on 14 January. Tranent Colts looking for funds for kids and kits going to Rwanda.</p> <p><b>9. Parent Queries</b> Care Free Kids looking for outgrown/spare uniforms. PR asked that items be handed in for RHS pupils.</p> <p><b>10. Date of Next Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b></p>	<p>DH, BS</p> <p>PR, LD</p>