



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 29th October 2019

Present: L Donohoe (Chair), W Thornton (Vice Chair), B Sanchez (Treasurer), D Hill, J Dall, M Macdonald, D Middlemass, K McFarlane

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), F Connal (Principal Teacher), S Fitzpatrick, G Kennie, 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 C McGinn, Cllr J McMillan, R Averbuch, L Taylor, H Boyle, K Furr, G Forsyth

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies LD welcomed everyone to the Parent Council (PC) meeting with a special welcome to new parents. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The Parent Council is looking into becoming a Charity. JD has spoken to someone working at STRIVE. KM said that a PTA is a generic PC with a charitable status and just need to have a fundraising committee and a regular income. LD will speak to Bev Skirrow. The minutes of the meeting on 27th August 2019 were approved. Proposed by DH and Seconded by LD The AGM minutes from 24th September 2019 were approved. Proposed by DH and Seconded by LD</p> <p>3. Extension update PR gave an update of the progress of the work to the school extension. The Forman and his team have strong connections to the school and have worked tirelessly throughout the October holiday with long evenings and weekends. The Architect is working closely with the team to get it right for everyone because once the final decision has been made, it will be very difficult to make changes. The timeline has been extended to Christmas 2020. The back of the school is closed off and there is a walkway to the astroturf and playing field, instead of walking around the school. A fire exit has been built and there was a fire drill on the first day back for safety, which went really well. The work on the sports facilities will start after Christmas. To minimise disruptions, the school is working closely with the Loch Centre to use the sports facilities and changing rooms. They also have conference rooms that can take smaller classes that will be used when needed and it makes a big different. The Rugby club is also available and other possibilities are being looked at with the increasing school roll for the next session 2020/21, to see what solutions can be arranged. PR is making sure to keep everyone in the loop of what's happening and on progress. The staff and pupils are solution focussed and coping really well, especially the PE staff and everyone has been very positive throughout so far.</p> <p>4. Breakfast Club update The breakfast club is running Monday – Friday from 8.00am. The Guidance Teachers are promoting it to the pupils who really need it in the first instance and it is open to everyone.</p> <p>5. Head Teacher's update <u>Staffing</u> The school is not fully staffed because of the recruitment crisis and it has been a challenge. Chris Laud is now permanent Depute Head Teacher. Also a Principal Teacher in Classroom Practice has been appointed, who is also an English teacher. A Modern</p>	<p>LD</p>

studies teacher has also just started.

Advertised again is the Principal Teacher of Home economics and at the moment, Ross High benefits from a strong partnership with Queen Margaret University to give the pupils relevant classes and cooking experience.

Three Guidance Support staff to help the Guidance Support Teachers has just started. Being the first call of parents and contact home, the school office was great helping out at the start of the term. Thanks very much for this.

Sports

Lucy Masters won both gold and silver in karate. Ellie McDonough won a Scottish Champion title in trampolining. Ella Steedman won first prize in gymnastics and Neve Ewing competing in karate representing Scotland in Chile.

Hannah Richardson was speaking at the UN Convention on the rights of the child in Geneva as the only one from the UK and was featured in the Scotsman.

Events

Mock court case has been very exciting and some of the pupils are through to the semi final in Glasgow. They are doing the research themselves, looking at the scientific analysis of the case and supported by solicitors throughout.

The school eco-group has started looking at what we can do in the canteen, especially about plastics. Ben Keane was featured in the media.

The McMillan coffee morning fundraiser went really well. Emma Gilroy also raised the same amount herself doing a bake sale and hillwalking, well done.

The school values are under review to find 3-4 core values. In order to get it right and to involve everybody, feedback has been sought from staff, the pupil voice team, P6/7 pupils, Parent Council members and Parent Forum.

S6 are planning a trip to Dalguise on 6th - 8th march this year instead of the yearly London trip. They are really excited about it and one of the highlights is a disco.

6. The Parental Engagement Strategy 2019

Annual Parental Engagement Conference, Understanding our School went really well. The numbers has been increasing every year and being the third year running, saw approximately 150 people coming. IT was great feedback again this year and the added mini-lessons were positive and enjoyable so will probably be ongoing. PR is trying to get an online booking system for events and curriculum evenings held in the school, making it easier to sign up. A letter is going out to all parents with info and PR will chase it up.

The P7 open evening went really well and was really busy with about 260 pupils. The senior pupils gave a welcoming feeling when presenting the school in a positive way and held a tour. The pupils could also see both Maths and English lessons and there was a positive vibe from the teachers. The feedback was great and especially impressed by the seniors who were volunteering being polite, engaging and really made an impression.

The S2 Curriculum evening went well where the parents were given report cards and a sit down meeting with the Guidance Teacher to try to make sure we get it right for every pupil. and PR said that the school always contacts parents if there are issues, however not always when things are going well. PR and the school are working hard to individually create the right pathway for each and everyone. A question about inconsistency on the report cards and PR will look into it.

The school is encouraging Athletics and giving an incentive for doing it, which is really helpful. There has not been a change of focus and access data to see progress and it is more for out of school instead. It is also expensive however it makes a difference for the pupils for numeracy and maths. A question about cards to get signed? PR will look into it.

The Parental Engagement is driven by GF who is working on strategy to maintain the communication link between parents and the school. LD can set up a twitter account which

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<p>is easy to link feeds from the school to reach as many as possible. LD will check with Nikki.</p> <p>It would be helpful if the school calendar on the website could be updated, however it needs to be manually updated and there is no one employed to do it at the moment. PR will speak to Business Manager Paula O'Neill because more than one person can update it, perhaps even pupils? It is possible to subscribe to the calendar so updates will be added to people's own calendars automatically.</p> <p>There are discussions about a Support Worker for Duke of Edinburgh.</p> <p>7. Finance Update Balance of bank account at 29th October 2019 is £373.27.</p> <p>The Signatories are being set up for JD, DH and BS. Still waiting to hear from the bank.</p> <p>8. Fundraising The PC will hold the annual Burns night on Friday 24th January 2020. The hall in the school is not available because of the work on the extension so a different venue is being sought, which has a licence and access to a kitchen, a bar and enough seating space for 120 people. The funds raised usually goes to the annual S6 London trip, however this year they have chosen a cheaper trip to Dalguise, so the funds raised can be used for something else, for example a kit for the Duke of Edinburgh. DH and BS is organising it and will look into different funding options to support the pupils.</p> <p>The annual Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 7th December 10-12pm. The PC will have a wine and water table and everyone is encouraged to bring in bottles and Christmas gift bags. LD will speak to Nicky with help to organise it.</p> <p>9. Area Partnership The last Area Partnership (AP) meeting had Jordan Smith as a Ross High pupil as keynote speaker. They also have a double decker bus and will advertise the AP as well as give funding to projects in the communities. The AGM will be held in December 2019.</p> <p>The AP helped fund the Fraser Centre, who will have open day on Saturday 2nd November 2019. It won the Charity of the year award and has access to meeting rooms as well as the cinema that can be booked for the benefit of the community.</p> <p>Donald grant is stepping down as Chairperson and a new Chair will be appointed at the next AGM. The Nominations are open to anyone 16 years and over.</p> <p>DM gave an update on how the fundraising works for the AP, priorities and the importance of the Scrutiny group. Just get in touch with any projects you want to see in the community because everything will be looked at and considered with changes continuously made.</p> <p>Info will be circulated to all PC members and discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>10. Parents' Queries A Parent question about the Children's Parliament Eco group that could have been promoted more? PR said that there is not a dedicated teacher for the Eco group at the moment because they are very new. Just contact PR directly if unsure how to promote events for next time. This was an inspiring event highlighted in the news & social media.</p> <p>A parent question if the Tranent high street is being changed to a one-way system? There has not been any news about this and it might take some time to organise if going ahead.</p> <p>11. AOCB There was none.</p> <p>Date of Next Meetings: Next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th November 2019</p>	<p>LD</p> <p>PR</p>
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