



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 25th February 2020

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

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), Cllr F Dugdale, S Fitzpatrick, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr T Trotter, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr C Hoy, Cllr J McMillan, F Connal, K Furr, L Taylor, M Harrington, G Kennie

| Minutes | Action |
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| <p>1. Introductions and Apologies LD welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The minutes from 28th January 2020 were approved. Proposed by DH and Seconded by WT</p> <p>3. Extension update PR had a meeting with the Architect and there is a further delay with lawyers involved and the extension is to be completed for August 2021. The council and the Architect is working really hard and the pupils are using the Loch centre and everyone is doing 100% to get things going as quickly as possible and working as fast as everyone possibly can.</p> <p>August 2020 will see an increase of about 80 pupils that will take the total up to about 1250 pupils. To be able to manage, the plan for the next session is to create new learning spaces by using teaching spaces from the science lab, staff offices where the staff will be given new laptops to use instead and from the common room. The 6th year will still have a common room, although smaller for next year. There will also be a classroom space in the library. It will be manageable to do it for one year only. The smaller classrooms can be used for half music groups and will become a classroom for smaller classes, for example advanced higher classes. PR will communicate to the parents once the changes to the school have been agreed with the council and the architects.</p> <p>The groundwork has been completed, which means that the outdoor space cant be used just now. Capacity issues means that everything needs to be done on holidays, for example toilets or classrooms however needs to make sure it can be done within the timescale so it can be used when the pupils are back.</p> <p>LD said big thanks to PR for everything and for keeping it in hand, much appreciated.</p> <p>4. Head Teacher's update <u>Staffing:</u> An advert is just up for a Support for Learning Teacher who will be working with inclusion. A Chemistry teacher has just started, A Geography teacher will soon start and the interviews for the Family Support Worker will be held tomorrow. The interviews for a Principal Teacher in Social Science will be held on Thursday 12th March and MM volunteered to be the Parent Council representative. This is a significant post in the school.</p> <p>Rhona McNaughton is retiring as a Geography teacher and she has dedicated her whole career working in the school for 40 years. PR thanked her for her service, a much appreciated and loved teacher.</p> | |

Achievements:

In sports, we have seen lots of successes in winning gold in Karate and Judo and winning matches in Football and Hockey. Well done everyone.

The Mock Court case had Amy Gossner representing the UK in the International finals held in Poland and came third after USA, well done.

Current:

The tracking reporting system continues to give an improved picture every year and will have the Prelim analysis available in two weeks time.

Course choices are taking place and it is exciting times because the pupils has an opportunity to choose the subjects they want to take and being able to tailor a level course that is right for them, depending on the pathway they are planning to take. The new model is a huge leap forward having much more options and the pupils engage more with some pathways that suit their needs and interests better and also leads to a higher level of what they would have otherwise had. PR gave an example for maths and what it could look like through the stages.

The S1 Parent evening is being held next week.

The school policy is being written together with pupils and staff and they are also creating a behavior policy as well, reminding pupils to wear the Ross High uniform.

The fully funded residential Sutton trust summer school for S5 has had ten pupils signed up so far. It is a great opportunity to see Universities like St Andrews and there is help to fill in applications if needed. The pupils don't need to meet all the criteria and can apply for other Universities for different weeks as well.

Events:

- STEM event for pupils to find out about different STEM jobs
- Duke of Edinburgh is underway with all departments of the school represented.
- Manchester football trip is coming soon
- S6 trip to Dalguise is next week
- Art exhibition with pupils showing off their art work.

5. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 25th February 2020 is £439.37.

The profit from the Christmas raffle came to £66 and is now banked.

There is a need for more music stands for the music department. PR will check how many is needed and costs to be able to make a formal funding request to the Parent Council.

The Parent Forum will be contacted to ask if they have suggestions on anything that would enhance the school for additional funding requests.

7. Area Partnership

The Area Partnership AGM has just been held with the new Chair, Bill Axon. A few bids went through and was agreed at the meeting. There will be no education attainment money going forward and the Chairs of the Area Partnerships are asking for a meeting to discuss how they can support going forward.

Lunch clubs are getting busier because the Area Partnership is keen to fund them, making them cheap or free. Pupils are actively encouraged to take up the offer. The Sanderson's Wynd breakfast and lunch club is also open during holiday times, serving both breakfast and lunch. This is only however available for P1-P7 because a primary school and for children receiving free school meals in the first instance.

The Area Partnership sends thanks to all the volunteers for lunch club, breakfast club and handing out jingle bags. The support is much appreciated and it couldn't have been done without the support of volunteers.

8. Parents' Queries

The Parent evening was well attended and gives a great opportunity to promote the Parent Council. The school wants to make sure to reach all parents and carers and engage with as many as possible through social media. Everyone are welcome to come to the Parent Council meetings to ask questions or to discuss anything, big or small, without mentioning names. Also everyone are welcome to email the school with questions or suggestions, which can also be posted on the school website.

A parent question about a late notification of a school packed lunch ham sandwich being spoilt. PR said that they sent it out as quickly as they could.

Another parent question about school pay being down for a whole week. The Council sent out a message saying that payments could be made at a later date.

Activities week was discussed as this is taking a hit on attendance and this year will be a trial and if attendance is not going up, then activity week could be taken away. There is a schedule that should suit as many as possible in trying to keep it interesting and to give a really good experience of clubs, creative art, football, bouncy castle etc. There is something for everyone and it can be funded if needed.

A parent question about Prelim and what is available if the pupil hasn't done well? There are lots in the activities booklet with plenty of revising opportunities throughout the day with breakfast club, lunch club and after school clubs. Easter study is offered on the first week where teachers are available with past papers to work on.

The Leadership team is looking at each pupil individually through a tracking report to increase their chances and getting it right for each and one of them. Pupils in 4th-6th year will be able to move from Nat4 to Nat5 for example, if doing well on the prelim.

9. AOCB

The school is holding a school show on Friday 12th June and the Parent Council members will run a raffle. It was suggested that everyone fundraise and bring in raffle prizes. The 6th year can help with the raffle.

The Race night will be held on Friday 24th April 2020. The Rugby club has been booked and the majority of the money raised will go towards the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Fraser centre has been booked for the Burns night on Friday 22nd January 2021. Money raised from the race night will help pay for the hall fee.

LD has spoken to STRIVE regarding charitable status. One of the suggestions they had was to change the Constitution to make it easier to accept charitable financial donations. They are running a trustee training sessions and could possibly send someone to come and speak at a Parent Council meeting soon.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st March 2020 (*Post meeting note; due to the COVID-19, all Parent Council meetings has been cancelled until further notice.*)