

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th January 2021

Present: L Donohoe (Chair), B Sanchez (Treasurer),

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), Cllr S Akhtar, V Anderson (Clerk), H Boyle, J Fraser, D Hill, G Kennie, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr G Mackett, M Harrington, W Thornton, M Macdonald, Cllr T Trotter; J Dall, R Averbuch, D Middlemass,

Apologies: C McMillan, K Furr, L Taylor, S Fitzpatrick, A Cameron, C Douglas, T Trotter, A Cameron, F Connal, L Pardoe, Cllr F Dugdale; K McFarlane, C Scott,

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>VA shared apologies provided. No introductions</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes from November 2020 were approved with no further comments. Approved by LD 1st and 2nd by JD.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher Updates</p> <p>COVID/On-Line Learning</p> <p>Have been better prepared this Lockdown after learning from previous. There is a bit more on-line confidence with teachers and pupils. We are using a mixed approach to home-learning, drafting good practise to help with consistency, good practise model suggests a google meet once a week with each class, teachers can also record lessons, assignments and self-directed learning.</p> <p>Questionnaire was issued to parents and pupils asking for feedback on their Home Learning experience. PR in process of drafting a response and will issue this shortly.</p> <p>Summary of feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback is mixed• Big response from 1st year parents• Big response from senior phase pupils• Lots of positives & thank you's, improvement ideas <p>3 Key Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Google meet time clash – meets should now only be booked at time-tabled subject time to avoid this happening again2. Google meet invitations – consistent method of letting pupils know. They will now be placed in pupil calendar & on the assignment posted. Good practise to look at both.	

3. Live Lessons/Google Meets – there are pro's and con's for this. Google meet cannot emulate what happens inside a class room and the teaching that happens. Too many google meets will feel like potentially hours of on-line lectures. Also examples of low attendance by pupils for some on-line.

Pupil feedback was they want a mixed approach. Some pupils struggling to ask for help in google meet. They should send an email to individual teacher if they are finding that.

PR – replied. Discussion with Unions on this, been some social media issues. Due to that feedback a good practise model/guide being produced. For example a weekly check-in would hope to improve consistency.

Paul confirmed we are listening & implementing changes based on feedback but mindful of balancing.

PR – Hubs up & running, 3 nurture bases & ASN. Approx. 70% attendance at ASN, 2 key workers classes. The classes have different teachers & there is a combination of subjects/classrooms to split up day. The hubs are not as busy as the Primary School hubs due to the age of the pupils. Guidance & Guidance Support teams are supporting around 200 families every week where needed. Would like 2 do more but capacity is a challenge on this.

SQA & Prelims

PR – advised that waiting on update/advise. No change for submission of grades yet. Expecting grade submissions may be pushed back allowing for time once/when pupils return into schools.

Pupils normally change timetables in June for following year. If these dates are pushed back it would mean new timetables would start Aug. Impact on S3 reports/course choicing- and be postponed to match date changes. All depends on confirmation of dates by SQA.

Laptops for all teaching staff will hopefully complete next week then teachers will be able to complete all reporting etc.

Discussions at school underway on returning using blended models with Seniors prioritised for Exams/Assessments.

As soon as we know then we will be ready as we have plans/modelling for different types of social distancing. Need to work out the staffing requirements for that but that will be completed later.

SQA have been very clear that no formal assessments will be done @ home by students. Not equitable to do this.

Parents will hear announcements on school returns the same time as the schools.

S2 Course Choices

Links have been sent out, videos and information very good.

P7 transitions – videos similar to last year will again be sent out.

LD – *last year's google meets for transitions were good can this be done again?*

PR – yes but will need to be done differently as google meets now have a maximum of 100 attendees so may need to have 3 sessions. Also looking to put a meet in place for SQA questions.

PR – other news extension plans are progressing positively and PR confident work will start soon'.

JD – *question. What are plans/work around for Hospitality teachers' maternity leave?*

PR – advert out now for this permanent position. A few applicants in now. We also have Mr MacAloney and seniors will be prioritised for his time.

GK – Any word from University requirements/placements – PR confirmed hadn't heard anything. They are probably waiting on SQA announcements. Edinburgh College Partnerships won't be ready for our courses but they will later and until then pupils will follow a full school timetable.

Cllr SA – Who is S4 Winton Guidance Teacher? PR – Mr David Russell-Fitzgerald, Ms Julie McCabe and Mr Chris Laud, Head of House.

GK – Enrichment courses have been excellent. Will S2s have a meeting with Guidance Teacher before making course choices?

PR – this has been discussed. Chris Laud confirmed that guidance teachers are happy to set up with those that wish these. It is being finalised now how this information will be issued to parents.

4. Finance Update

BS forwarded update to LD. Nothing significant to report. Need to finalize bids. VA will chase up the drama bid.

5. Area Partnership

Next meeting on 9 February – update after that.

VA

6. Parent Queries

LD – Was collecting feedback on Home Learning for Focus Group Education Scotland. Some parents don't understand why it is not the same as in-school learning/do they understand why that is? For example why teachers cannot be available for pupil as per their 'in-school' timetable. LD spoke with own kids for feedback. Felt re-assured as they said learning new things, getting a mixture of learning methods – videos, on-line and meetings.

PR – reality is teachers have same issues as many parents, juggling own home-learning with, preparing lessons, taking on-lessons, recording lessons dealing 1-2-1 with pupils directly. Speaking to other HTs in East Lothian schools following similar models.

LD – more for pupils this time around. Impressed with the amount of new learning being taught & levels of engagement see a difference this time.

JD – Pupil a bit demotivated/concentration levels down during Google meets. Teachers are doing a good job. End of lesson teacher asks if any questions/silence nothing back. Pupils needing help parents or pupils can contact Guidance Teachers.

JD – 4th year/seniors getting too much work. Maths for example taking up more time & eating into other subjects time.

PR – replied there is pressure. Seniors have always had pressures but increased with the situation now. Need to get balance right so we don't do pupils injustice.

DH – Agree. Senior 5th very important. 6th year a lot of engagement, self-directed learning and it's expected for preparing for further Education/Uni. Younger years working with 8 subjects, only had 3 google meets. A balance needs to be struck here suggest one per week for each subject – even 20 mins, setting expectations. Kid's mental health is now a massive issue and maybe younger students need more push.

PR - There is a difference in the needs across year groups. 1st year for example need that connection with peers. Trying to encourage pupils to arrange google meets with 2 or 3 others to work together.

Agree with all points made/feedback.

HB – home schooling like night & day compared with previous lockdown. Feedback received from an S1 parent is that putting up all work for week on a Monday is over whelming for the younger years.

Cllr SA – provided feedback as a parent. More parents are working this time around. PR & team are doing a fantastic job. Got right balance as don't want too

much screen time, 6hrs too much. There are lessons recorded as well, this all lets pupils manage their own workloads. It's not perfect but in the circumstances school are doing a good job. Please pass on thanks to your team. PR confirmed he will pass that on at whole school meeting.

7. Charitable Fund/Status Update

LD – provided update. CMcM has been doing lots of work to progress this.

3 Trustees will be needed and an amendment to the constitution will be required for this – it's a small change.

School would then be able to accept donations/approach Trusts etc.

Accounts would need to be audited. Could approach an accountant to do this for us. There is not much to our accounts.

A document will be pulled together to detail the responsibilities for 3 Trustees.

LD – anyone have any thoughts?

DH – yes good.

GK – accountants will be busy at Tax Year end, just something to be aware of when requesting the help to complete that audit.

Everyone confirmed happy with work so far.

LD will share all documents once they are completed.

WT – please pass on our thanks to CMcM from all on Parent Council.

9. AOCB

Cllr SA – for information. The East Lothian Education Trust which has funding for activities/trips etc. has funding available for parents/pupils. This is because there have been no trips. Primary & High school pupils/parents can apply. Applications can be looked at for assistance for devices/assistance for home learning. Cllr SA will forward this information/Finance guide to PR/LD for circulation/promotion to parents.

PR – great. We've loaned approx. 150 chrome-books so this shows some parents may wish to apply.

GK – Primary schools didn't all get chrome-books & parents/grandparents buying

Action to let parents know regarding funding.

Date of Next Meetings:

*Parent Council meetings on Tuesday 27th October 2020, 24th November 2020, 26th January 2021, **23rd February 2021**, 30th March 2021, 27th April 2021 and 25th May 2021.*

SA
PR
LD