

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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
Meeting of Tuesday 27th October 2020**

**Present:** W Thornton (Chair), B Sanchez (Treasurer), D Hill, J Dall,

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), Cllr S Akhtar, M Harrington, V Anderson (Clerk), L Pardoe, R Averbuch, Cllr C McGinn

**Apologies:** Cllr K McLeod, Cllr T Trotter, Cllr C Hoy, Cllr J McMillan, K Furr, L Taylor, S Fitzpatrick, L Donohoe, M Macdonald, K McFarlane, H Boyle, D Middlemass, Cllr F Dugdale, , Cllr G Mackett, G Kennie, A Cameron, C Douglas, T Trotter,

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>Round table of quick introductions by everyone.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes from AGM Sept 2020 and September 2020 were approved with no further comments. Proposed by D Hill and 2<sup>nd</sup> by J Dall for both.</p> <p>Financial Reporting – comments were invited following AGM. Nothing received/to note.</p> <p>Email to teaching staff inviting bids will be issued now returned from Oct break.</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher Update</b></p> <p>PR welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the parents for all support so far with so much that has changed recently.</p> <p><b>Staffing Update</b></p> <p>Louise Carroll (Seton House) had baby last week. Congratulations. M Maxwell was successfully recruited into position to cover maternity leave.</p> <p>Rachel Attinasi (Seton House) will be going on maternity leave. Jane Liggett successfully recruited into position to cover Maternity leave, starts with us on 1 December.</p> <p>Laura Prothro has been successfully recruited into a PT of PE, secondment with another school, returning at end of secondment. Great for Laura.</p> <p>Kerry-Ann Dougan – reducing by 1 day. Lewis Shaw will join on Wednesdays to replace. Will strengthen the numbers in this faculty.</p> <p>Linda Girot, School Councillor retired before October break. Will be a loss to RHS after many years. Position will be advertised.</p> <p>Recruiting for FCT/HE teaching positions, 1 full-time 1 part-time. Need to improve the numbers, Miss Hart is expecting - future maternity leave.</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Half Update</b></p> <p>Since returning in August from lock down staff had done incredibly well with all risk assessments completed and guidelines followed. It is different and feels different for all – they are missing many things – sporting activities, trips, dances, discos – it’s a sad fact.</p>	<p>VA</p>

<p>On a positive note some sports activities are starting again – football/rugby and pupils are very much still working &amp; learning.</p> <p>Health &amp; wellbeing – so far good news with the vast majority coping really well with the return. That said there are concerns and challenges for some with strain on families/school. The job is to support them and get back into a positive place, some need more support. Delighted to hear that with the new 5 Tier systems that schools will be kept open.</p> <p>COVID – 2 positive cases at school, 1 with nothing further required as September break and the second where 42 students had to isolate up to the October break. Pleased to say all returned after break.</p> <p>Windows &amp; Doors opened – clear advice and guidelines that these need to remain open. Just not as wide in winter to ensure ventilation in classes. Doors will be closed from time to time for short periods for example when watching a video. There is also a challenge with some noise from the extension work – balancing act required here.</p> <p>Google Class room – PR making sure the balance is right for teachers on doing this and class lessons. Self-isolation/track &amp; trace will affect this but right now it's going well.</p> <p>SQA – Nat 5 exams cancelled but not Nat 5s. Our job is to make sure continuous assessment happens continuously. Balance is needed to make sure there is not too much. PR confirmed waiting on more detail on the body of evidence required for assessments and what needs to be provided.</p> <p>Highers – working on what needs removed/submitted from subjects/classes/exams. All very different by subject. For example PE gone from 2 assessments to 1 and Maths will have optional choices on what they can answer. Requires further work/clarity. The challenge is do you focus on both/1? Teachers are coping well but there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure pupils are prepared.</p> <p>After school study/lunch activities are starting to move again. Activity booklet is being updated on web-site. As this develops PR will communicate with parents.</p> <p>Parents Evening Trial – S3 is on 5 November. CL managing this. Trials taken place with volunteers. Thanks to those who took part. CL will be writing to parents to set expectations on how these need to work – timings etc. as we want to have total transparency on this.</p> <p>Assemblies have/are taking place – PR has welcomed students back after break/discussed health &amp; safety, uniform, behaviour in school and in wider community. Spoken about the 4 key values – Positivity, Perseverance, Integrity and Respect. The assemblies have gone well.</p> <p>Good news on the work by two 6<sup>th</sup> year students Sophie &amp; Connor, 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland to work with BBC Children in Need in the bids decision making. They have helped to give out £6M in grants. Incredible experience for these students and PR received outstanding feedback from the BBC on their contribution. Very proud of their achievement.</p> <p><b>4. Finance Update</b> Covered in matters arising</p> <p><b>5. Area Partnership</b> Meeting taking place tonight</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>PR</p>
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## 6. Parent Queries

BS – SQA, in relation to material, more we take away are we limiting pupils. What's approach from school/help parents understand & support kids? Highers/Advanced Hs  
What are contingency plans?

PR will ensure differences/changes are made clear for subjects that have changes. Guidance has to be followed, still waiting on final update for SQA. Teachers are confident of delivery. PR will speak to SLT and PTs re putting on web-site overview of changes & what it means/approach we will take.

Future Proofing – Higher PE to Adv. Higher PE (2 sports – 1 sport). PR can't answer yet will ask Lesley Brown (Head of Education) what the plans are going forward.

Contingency same as Nat 5, assess throughout year. Pupils need a solid bank of evidence. Spoke at assembly that 'no last minute dash' – need to be very honest with feedback/tracking so no conflict further down line.

SQA are looking at relative weightings.

RA – What is contingency re infection rate increasing? PR advised RHS has plans for all contingency ready to go if needed (blended learning, social distancing etc.). Lots of work done on this prior to re-opening in August.

RA – Any indication on what will happen? PR – no, first minister updates us all at the same time.

JD – Can we space assessments out more Example of 6 in 4 days (exhausting)?

PR agreed it's not easy. Will try and balance, but can't make promises, depends on levels of changes etc. There will/may be some clashes. We will have an awareness and try to balance as best we can.

Prelims add next to agenda to have a full discussion.

LP – concern on how some pupils/families are coping with the pressures of the return to school. Some seem ok in school but not once home.

PR said there is a big jump every year and it's bigger this year due to COVID pupils/parents feeling this way should speak with school/guidance teacher to work with us to relieve pressure.

WT – Due to COVID/Track & Trace some pupils may miss significant parts/assessments/exam. What will happen here?

PR – this happens under normal circumstances. School will provide an exceptional circumstances report.

WT – Observed a huge amount of work & passed on thanks to PR & team on the hard work they continue to do. PR said he'd never had to thank team more over last few months. Kind words go a long way and PR will pass on the thanks.

PR said there have been a higher number of complaints. COVID/Anxiety – school has split breaks/lunches and SLT out in community. Still a number of issues.

PR

PR advised parents evening on-line was positively received by Parent council – still expect some small number of complaints about this. Most are accepting once explained about impact of COVID but having to more explaining due to this.

Cllr C McGinn – commented that he attended a length Council meeting today where there was huge gratitude from everyone in the chamber on the handling by all HTs, schools and pupils and the efforts made by all. The overall majority of comments were that a fantastic job is being done.

PR – advised that teachers have not lost sight that they are fortunate that they are able to come to work, see colleagues and pupils, many people are not in that position.

### **7. Fundraising – Sub-committee**

LD has forwarded an offer from a parent to assist in applying for fund that is available. Do people think this is a good idea to explore? PR confirmed he would be delighted if anyone would like to pursue this.

This is one of the reasons being a charity had been discussed.

JD added that funding can be given from developers etc. (Blindwells for example). They do it for clubs/charities – might be worth exploring as part of this.

LP added its getting tougher to get grants/funding so any further assistance excellent.

Idea supported – add to a future agenda to discuss.

### **8. Community Climate Asset Fund**

PR suggested this might tie in with point 7. Schools are able to make a bid for funding for this. PR keen to get this moving – it's a substantial amount for school this size.

PR asked if anyone in a position to work on pulling a bid together as no capacity in school currently. WT offered and will speak to LD, maybe involve the parent volunteer from Point 7.

RA suggested involving the school re-cycling group in the bid, it's already an active group and that will make a difference to any bid.

LP – will have a look at EDEN for any assistance.

BS - offered help for financial assistance.

### **9. AOCB**

LP – Climate change Scot Gov been running training for Youth Leaders/Community Group  
LP will forward to WT/fundraising group discussion.

PR/WT – thanks to all for attending.

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

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