

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

## ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

### Meeting of Tuesday 23 February 2021

**Present:** L Donohoe (Chair), W Thornton, B Sanchez (Treasurer).

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), V Anderson (Clerk), L Pardoe, R Averbuch, D Middlemiss, Cllr F Dugdale, H Boyle, C McMillan, J Fraser, C Scott, D Hill, G Kennie, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr T Trotter, Cllr C McGinn, J Dall

**Apologies:** K McFarlane, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr C Hoy, Cllr J McMillan, K Furr, L Taylor, S Fitzpatrick, M Macdonald, A Cameron, C Douglas, M Harrington, F Connal, Cllr S Akhtar, A Cameron,

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>LD – welcomed everyone to meeting</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Proposed last minutes – Ralph Averbuch 2<sup>nd</sup> – Donna Hill</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher Updates</b></p> <p>Today's announcement – difficult for 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils. We are following guidelines as best we can based on the announcements and will issue relevant communications.</p> <p>Seniors in school this week (we're around 8% daily) PR went in to see all the classes back in today – lovely to see them. Announced today more seniors will go back. Guidance will come out on this soon – might be a blended approach or a % approach – we don't know yet. Can't assume all seniors back on 15 March. Talking about 5 April – really 19<sup>th</sup> April (due to Easter Holidays) feel for all the pupils and parents.</p> <p>Mixed approach to engagement to on-line learning. Sending emails letters regularly. Engagement with on-line learning emails, it's difficult to get wording right for all learners need to have a balance and want to be supportive. Some pupils tell parents they are doing all work set, but they aren't, for a number of different reasons, and we have to provide an update. Some parents happy/some not.</p>	

Question from Paul - what are views on these communications/welcome any feedback?

Ralph Averbuch – Lot of material and information coming in, lots from other organisations too. So much information for everyone. E-mail is still best way/emailing parents.

Donna Hill/Gayle Kennie – not all parents received engagement letters.

Paul Reynolds - Senior phase first letters issued for, 1-3<sup>rd</sup> year next week.

PR – please just contact school & raise any issues as the dialogue helps. Can have further conversations to support/update if a mistake. It's not a judgement or criticism it's to simply to help parents and pupils understand what's happening.

Wendy Thornton – love getting confirmation that work being kept up with.

Paul Reynolds - So much changing, don't want to send too much as there is so much.

Covid testing for Seniors – any questions on that message?

Donna Hill agreed it's useful it get this.

Julie Dall – When will pupils get tested/how often? PR –, someone will come round and distribute kits, collect 3 kits to do at home. Twice spaced out in week would meet needs.

Paul Reynolds – pupils are being asked to socially distance, reminders needed but no issue when asked. In classes sitting 2 metres apart. Been great with masks.

Hubs ticking away, approx 100 pupils, about 50 pupils in each day. Rotation basis with teachers.

BGE children – from 15 March teachers will be asked to be in schools teaching & hubs. Need to make sure BGE learning continues this will be a challenge and discussions happening to address how that will happen.

Course choices – S2 done, S3 in process, 4&5 will be issued following that.

S3 reporting, rather than having a report we're introducing the engagement information and a recommended level of study. Any concerns contact school so we can discuss.

SQA – date pushed back further week for estimated grades. RHS feel it will give time for gathering the data for assessing. They won't be met with big assessments on day 1. There will be re-grouping time, teachers will assess where they are, if they are settling, then prep for assessments and assessments will follow. Will give them plenty notice for revision for any that will take place.

Wendy Thornton – kids in BGE will be worried, 3 week run to Easter. Getting work on weekly basis – could it be done for a further 3 week block to keep them going?

Paul Reynolds – yes we have just heard today. Spoke with a PT today and they have already thought about setting work for this eventuality – for example 1 teacher will set work for 1<sup>st</sup> year. Will be having a further conversation with all PTs to arrange.

There might be more of an issue where only a few teachers, English, Maths, Science all have bigger faculties, Drama/Music has only 2 (maternity leave also), but we will be keeping learning going. Google meets will be challenging on-going but this will be discussed – may move to recorded lessons more.

Donna Hill – any idea when 6<sup>th</sup> year will finish up?

Paul Reynolds – really good question, got 4<sup>th</sup> year leavers too. PR – I don't know at this point. After finishing final assessment they wouldn't need to come back into school. Would hope they all stay in until their final assessment. It's on the agenda to be discussed. Will let you know.

Timetable change – usually 3-4 June but obviously won't this year as pupils will still be in classes. TBC

#### **Staffing Update**

Paul – good news we appointed an HE teacher, up to 3 now, one is then going on maternity leave, hoping to get a probationer in for cover.

Drama teacher appointment also made to cover maternity leave.

12 members of staff pregnant this year. PR – delighted for them all and working hard with ELC to staff going forward. Speaking to Lesley Brown/Richard Parker – discussing budget requirements to cover.

#### **Extension Works**

Paul – great news extension will start on 8 March all going well. Weekly meetings again and it's all starting to ramp up. After lots of planning, talking. Fantastic.

#### **4. Finance Update**

Beatrix Sanchez – no change since December 6p interest, balance £439.59

Bid updated. Art Dept. – were speaking to IT. VA spoke to SS who was waiting on IT update. VA will chase. PR will follow up with Drama.

#### **5. Area Partnership**

Heather Boyle – attended meeting couple weeks ago, nothing much been happening. Feedback on volunteering opportunities and we put them in touch. New wellbeing subgroup starting, volunteered to join that, new mental health worker from RHS also joining.

Deborah Middlemass – still funding available, around £6k left. Maureen Allan also has stocks of PPE if anyone that needs that.

PR – how do I get/make bid - Go straight to Simon Davie. Deborah – yes.

## **6. Parent Queries**

Has there been much talk about P7 Transitions?

PR – yes been working on videos for example: meet staff, welcome to depts. – all complete and have lots from last year.

Will be pulled together onto web-site. Will then contact primary's – sending them the links for P7 classes to watch with their P7s. Then 'virtual meets' with RHS for Q&A sessions and get ball rolling. Still hopeful to get pupils in building in June.

Katrina Donaldson will be writing to P7 parents this week to let them know what plan is. If link is ready it will be sent. Think it's important for P7 teachers to take pupils through it. All sorts of stuff there - Virtual tours, junior learning teaching team, 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, welcome P7 & department and more.

Enhanced transitions – happen every year. Going to look at providing an enhanced transition for all P7s this year. Guidance Teachers meeting this week to discuss who is linking with which schools. KD meeting with Primary Head Teachers tomorrow to discuss support for pupils.

## **7. Charitable Status Update**

Need a consensus to move forward – altering constitution. Not enough space for CMcM to come onto committee. LD has contacted Bev Skirrow @ Education to find out how we do this. Numbers increased slightly and she would be named person for OSCAR and she is happy to take on role. Anyone have any objections – there were no objections.

LD – issued all the information. Any questions?

There was general discussion on how the Community Lottery works. Parent Council approved progressing joining this.

LD – will let CMcM know happy to proceed

Cllr Dugdale – thanks for all the hard work. Appreciate all you're doing to manage everything.

Cllr G Mackett. Ross High Meme's Instagram page – thoughts?

PR not sure, surprised it's still active. Just report it if you see it/inappropriate. The more people who report it – then it will get taken down.

**8. AOCB**

**Date of next meeting:**

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