



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Tuesday 28th January 2014**

**Present:** J Belton (Chair), R Powell, J Robertson, A Muir, N Neighbour, P Reynolds, M Collins, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr D Grant, Cllr J Gillies, N Nicholls (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Janice McCleod – School Nurse Team Leader East and Mid Lothian

**Apologies:** H Williams, L Morrison, A Welsh

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p><b>JB</b> welcomed those present and wished everyone a belated Happy New Year. Apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2013 were approved by <b>AM</b> and seconded by <b>N Neighbour</b>.</p> <p><b>PR</b> had sent out a letter from the school to warn parents of disruption to the Pencaitland bus during road works. Some pupils had not been able to board the Macmerry bus when a single decker had been used instead of a double decker. Andrew Maclellan, transport officer at East Lothian Council (ELC), had sent an email to the bus company to say that in future 2 single deckers should be used to replace a double decker. <b>JB</b> reminded parents to ensure issues experienced with transport were directed to Andrew Maclellan – <a href="mailto:transportservices@elastlothian.gov.uk">transportservices@elastlothian.gov.uk</a></p> <p>National Parent Forum information about the new curriculum had been send home in pupils' bags.</p> <p><b>JB</b> thanked Parent Council members who had been involved in the recruitment of a permanent school Depute.</p> <p><b>3. Immunisation of School Pupils</b></p> <p><b>JM</b> had been invited along to talk about the immunisation of school pupils in East Lothian. There had been a very high uptake of the HPV (cervical cancer) vaccine which was a school based programme offered to 2<sup>nd</sup> year girls. This had been publicised well by the Government. Uptake of the DTP (Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio) vaccine offered to 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils was much lower. Next year it would be publicised better and offered at the same time as the Meningitis C vaccine with a shared consent form. Information about immunisations (eg for MMR) carried out at doctors' surgeries should be passed on to the local authority and parents were also asked to include this on consent forms. Healthy drop-in services close to high schools provided advice</p>	

on sexual health and contraception. **JM** would clarify the statistics which had been provided, including comparative figures if possible, for circulation at a later date.

**JM**

#### 4. Head Teacher's Update

A permanent Depute Head and Principal Teacher (PT) in the Additional Support Needs (ASN) Department and a permanent PT Citizenship had been appointed. Two ASN Auxiliary posts had been advertised.

There had been a great atmosphere in the school in the run up to Christmas. **PR** showed a spoof teachers' boy band video which had been shown at Christmas assemblies. There had also been a school variety show and a senior Christmas dance attended by around 150 pupils and 50 staff members.

Two pupils had recently gained medals in an international karate competition. The 6<sup>th</sup> year 4 day trip to London would be leaving on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Bryony Knox, a metal smith and designer had given a presentation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. There were plans in conjunction with the Burns Club in the town to reinstate the school Burns Supper. The school had great links with Ormiston Growers who had been running cycling and walking groups and providing work experience for pupils. 7 plus 7 construction had offered to re-landscape one of the school quadrangles for free and provide poly tunnels and raised flower/vegetable beds.

As part of the learning set initiative, Ross High was working with North Berwick and Lasswade High schools to push forward universal support – pupils taking ownership of their learning. Representatives of Education Scotland had recently met the Senior Management team to discuss new initiatives, for example Ross High working with primary schools to try to raise attainment. The school had met ELC quality improvement officers to discuss pupil support, social and emotional behaviour. There had been a reduction of exclusions by 14%. The rescheduled quality improvement visit would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> February. There was a new formal classroom observation policy to enable staff to learn from each other. **PR** also visited classrooms informally and had been impressed by the quality of teaching and learning going on in the school.

The school had received good feedback on the S2 curriculum choice evening which had been well attended. A new course choice book for senior school (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) years looked great and would soon be issued to pupils along with choice forms. Pupils had been consulted on the combinations of courses they wanted the school to offer. All parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils would have an interview in school to discuss pupils' course choices. Parents of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years would be invited in for an interview if they wanted one.

**PR** noted that the introduction of new curriculum meant that teachers were under pressure but that they were working hard and ensuring pupils were prepared for the new exams.

**KM** noted the hard work of the staff in working with older pupils to secure work placements. **PR** would find out if the fire board Cool Down Crew operated in the Tranent area. There was a possibility of establishing a link with Loretto school: the acting head was an ex Ross High pupil

**PR**

#### 5. Uniform Proposal

The Parent Council supported **PR**'s proposal to introduce blazers and black footwear for the senior school (4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years) and to consult pupils, staff and the wider parent body about this. If this change was supported pupils

would be asked for their views on the shape and colour of the blazer and badges.

## 6. Finance Update

**AM** offered to take on the role of Treasurer. This was agreed at the meeting. **BE** and **AW** would assist as signatories etc

**AM**

## 7. Parents' Queries

Why had the email communication system not yet been introduced? **PR** hoped that this would be introduced in June or August after a sufficient percentage of parents' email addresses had been obtained. In the future email addresses would be passed on by cluster schools. The school was looking at what type of system to use and would bear in mind that parents would not want to be overloaded with emails.

Why had a tracking report been issued during the prelims? **PR** said that a full report would also be issued after the prelims.

Suggestion to use the charity Speakers for Schools. **PR** said that the Director of Scottish Power had recently been booked to do a talk to pupils.

Date for 1<sup>st</sup> year parents' night. This would be after the Easter break. **PR** said that the school website was being updated to highlight a calendar of important dates.

Progress on e-profiles/ portfolios (pupils keeping a record of work and achievements). **PR** said that pupils would need to be able to update their portfolios as part of every lesson, rather than in one sitting per week and that this was dependent on access to computers or smart devices. There was now a question mark over whether wi fi should be introduced in schools (many other countries were removing it) and it was possible that portfolios might be completed on paper. Universal support to raise attainment would be a part of the school improvement plan next year and would include the use of e-profiles.

## 8. Fundraising

**JB** thanked **MC** for coordinating the Christmas concert raffle (which had raised nearly £300) and **N Neighbour** for sourcing a lot of the prizes. **RP** would email **AW** and **Neighbour** to arrange to meet to discuss fundraising ideas before the next meeting.

**RP**

## 9. Any Other Business

Information about Local Area Partnerships would be re-circulated and discussed at the next meeting

**NN**

**Date of next Parent Council meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.00pm.**