



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
Meeting of Tuesday 25th March 2014**

**Present:** J Belton (Chair), R Powell, J Robertson, N Neighbour, A Muir, A Welsh, B Esamal, P Reynolds, L Morrison, Cllr D Grant, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr K Mcleod, N Nicholls (Clerk)

**Apologies:** H Williams, Cllr J Gillies

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p><b>JB</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were approved by <b>RP</b> and seconded by <b>AW</b> subject to an amendment that the Parent Council had agreed to open a new bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland.</p> <p><b>PR</b> said that 9 pupils had completed a course with the Fire and Rescue Service Cool Down Crew and had received certificates. Some pupils had featured in the Council's Living magazine working at Ormiston Grows. The video produced by Police Scotland about online safety could be seen on You Tube.</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher's Update</b></p> <p>A full time post in the English Department had been advertised to cover two part time maternity leave posts. Two teachers had been appointed to a job share post in the Additional Support Needs (ASN) Department. Some ASN auxiliary posts would shortly be advertised.</p> <p>Assemblies and drop in sessions had looked at both sides of the Scottish Independence debate. On 26<sup>th</sup> March pupils and 4 invited MSPs would take part in a debate and question and answer session.</p> <p>The school's junior debating club had recently taken part in an inter-school debating competition. An East Lothian Secondary School's debating competition would take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Ross High. <b>SA</b> thanked staff for their support in helping to arranging this event.</p> <p>Teachers in the English Department had featured in the East Lothian Courier dressed up as book characters to celebrate national book day. An S3 girls into physics event had been held at Preston Lodge school.</p> <p>12 pupils had taken part in the East Lothian Showcase Concert. The provision of transport to the event for pupils was being looked at. A "Ross High Rocks" concert by school bands for pupils would be held after the school holidays.</p>	

A number of pupils were taking part in the youth and philanthropy initiative supported by the Wood Family Trust. Groups of pupils who had been working with local organisations/charities would make a presentation to win £3000 for that organisation.

The CEO of National Power had recently spoken at the school. A group of pupils had attended a workshop at Microsoft's offices in Edinburgh. The company was keen to develop links with the school. The school had received £500 in sponsorship from Baillie Gifford.

A submission had been made to renew the school's Eco-Schools status. Work on the new quadrangle garden had nearly finished with the aid of parents and 7plus7 construction. Glennon Brothers sawmill had also donated timber and was keen on creating further links with the school. There was a possibility that chickens might be kept.

A new welcome sign made by pupils in the ASN Department had been put up and looked great.

The English Department had met the town's Burns Club to discuss holding a school Burns Supper which would feature pupils' poetry readings.

The school newsletter would show pupils modelling the proposed new school blazer. This would have blue braiding and the school badge and would cost £30-35. Parents would be asked to comment via email.

Parents would be advised by letter of study leave dates - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> May. Not all pupils would be eligible. Pupils would be able to sign up for 3 days of timetabled study support in school on 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April. An additional in-service day had been added to the two already taking place in August.

A recent Cluster Heads meeting had discussed working further with Queen Margaret University and also getting pupils to read more eg by extending the Dunbar Reads Together project. The school was also looking at distance learning options with the Open University for example for ICT.

Guidance and Senior Management Team Staff would be available to discuss exam results with pupils in August – possibly on one of the in-service days. **PR** wanted to ensure that all pupils left school with a Maths and English qualification.

The school planned to host a meal for "friends of Ross High" with hospitality students providing the catering. Parent Council members would receive invitations to thank them for their hard work on behalf of the school.

A draft copy of the school improvement plan was handed round. The Parent Council would provide feedback at the next meeting.

#### **4. Fa'side Area Partnership Meeting**

**RP** said that the group would produce an area plan for 2015/16 within a year; setting priorities for local expenditure using money from existing Council budgets. Membership of the group had now been agreed but other organisations could be seconded onto it. It was presently being chaired by a senior Council official but would elect its own chair after one year. A frequently asked questions paper was handed round (attached). The draft minutes of the meeting would also be circulated.

It was noted that members would need to consult the views of the bodies they

**ALL**

**NNicholls**

were representing before decisions were made and that good publicity would be needed so people knew how to put their views forward. It was agreed that the Parent Council should liaise with Ross High pupil members of the group. **SA** said that a Council Youth Dialogue Officer would work with the young people who were involved to ensure that their voices were heard.

#### **5. Finance Update**

There was £296.49 in the bank with a cheque to pay in. A funding application for £160.28 for stationary supplies for pupils to use on the London/Paris school trip was approved. **PR** would arrange payment from the proceeds of the Christmas concert raffle. **AM** would send an email to **PR** to arrange for the remainder of the raffle proceeds to be paid into the Parent Council's new bank account.

**PR**  
**AM**

#### **6. Parents' Queries**

In response to a question from **JB**, **PR** said that pupils needed to make 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year course choices by Friday. The school was aiming to enable pupils to obtain their choices but with courses that were viable to run. The possibility of pupils attending another school to follow a particular course had been discussed at a recent Head Teachers' meeting. Two North Berwick High School pupils might take an Advanced Higher course being offered by Ross High School.

#### **7. Fundraising**

A BYOB Family Quiz Night would be held on at the school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of June at 7.00pm. Teams could be registered via the school office with payment of £10 on the night. **PR** would finalise the advert in the school newsletter and add a 'phone number and email address. Other advertising could be by flyer at cluster primaries and in the Gala programme. Parent Council members would try to source prizes for the quiz, raffle and a sit down bingo game.

**PR**

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Staff volunteers would form a group to discuss how the school's 60th anniversary in November should be marked. Once this had been set up Parent Council members would be invited to become involved.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7.00pm.**