



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 25th August 2015

Present: J Belton (Chair), R Powell, J Robertson, N Neighbour, A Muir, G Walshe, L Renwick, B Esamal, P Reynolds, L Morrison, Cllr S Akhtar, N Nicholls (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr D Grant, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr J Gillies

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>JB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>PR said that one school leaver's blazer had been handed in to be re-used by the school. Parents had, however, been passing on blazers to friends and family members. GW had produced postcards providing information about the Parent Council to hand out to parents/carers. The minutes were proposed by N Neighbour and seconded by AM.</p> <p>3. School Results</p> <p>PR said that he was delighted with pupils' exam results and that this was a positive start to the year. 28.43% of 4th years had achieved five or more National Qualifications. 28.6% of 5th years had achieved 3 or more Highers. 10.6% had achieved 5 or more Highers. 51.3% had achieved at least one Higher. The results were expected to be very good against comparator schools as measured by Insight (Scottish Government online benchmarking tool for schools). Ross High was an inclusive school and levels of attainment were rising. The number of guidance staff would be increasing in order to further focus on attainment. Around 95% of pupils would be leaving the school with at least 5 qualifications and 94.3% leaving for a positive sustainable destination.</p> <p>SA congratulated and thanked staff for their hard work and said that there was a great deal of positive feedback in the local community towards the school and its pupils. JB also thanked PR and the staff on behalf of the Parent Council for the continued improvement in attainment and noted the effort and flexibility of staff which encouraged commitment from pupils.</p>	

4. Finance Update

It was agreed that Ian Morrison's funding application for £400.00 to purchase reconditioned cameras for the Higher Photography course should be approved. **AM** said that there was now £248.53 in the bank account. £213 raised at the quiz night would go towards school activities week leaving a balance of £35.53.

5. Fundraising

A fundraising quiz would be held on Friday 13 November 2015 and a family bingo night on Wednesday 16 March 2016. The school Burns Night was being held on Friday 29 January 2016. These events should be well advertised eg. facebook event, emailing a flyer to parents and putting posters up in local shops. **JB** would circulate a link for suggesting a local organisation which ASDA might support. It was noted that the store intended to sponsor a school breakfast club.

6. Head Teacher's Update

The school was welcoming two teachers back from maternity leave. Jenny Clelland (PE) would be retiring after working for 40 years in the school. Jenny was organising a school ceilidh for 1st 5th and 6th years for the STV appeal on Friday 11 September 2015. Adverts had been placed for teachers of Maths and PE. New teachers had been recruited for Spanish and French and in Chemistry. Newly qualified teachers were working in the school in Art and Design, English, Music, Maths, Modern Studies, PE and Chemistry.

The new S1s had started the new school year positively. Most were wearing blazers, some were in the process of getting them and school staff would phone parents of other pupils who were not wearing blazers. Financial assistance was available where cost was an issue.

The in-service day focused on the theme for the coming year which would be about making mistakes and resilience. There had been a demonstration of Google Classroom which could be used to set homework and assignments online. The school activities booklet was being produced earlier in the term this year. Wifi had now been installed in the school.

The first tracking reports for senior pupils would include a prediction by teachers of grades which were likely to be achieved. This would allow guidance staff intervention when necessary.

PR had been asked to speak at the Scottish Learning Festival about the school's creative learning zone.

The school sponsored walk would be held on Tuesday 17 September. There was a £7,000 target to be raised broken down by class. Parents expressed some concerns about the possibility of holding a colour me event next year.

Jamie Muir was the new school Dux after having achieved outstanding Highers results. Jay Davidson was the new under 14 Scottish BMX champion.

Ross High was now working with Speakers for Schools and had recently

All

JB

welcomed David Cruickshank of Deloitte UK.

The P7 parents' night would be on 3 November 2015.

7. AGM

The AGM would be held on 29 September 2015 before the Parent Council meeting.

8. Parents' Queries

N Neighbour passed on concern from a parent whose child had to wait a long time to see Neil Craik-Collins on the in service day to discuss course options following receipt of exam results. **PR** said that course discussions used to take place on the first day of term so doing this on the in service day was preferable. It was only really possible for one member of the teaching staff to coordinate the timetable with assistance from perhaps one other person.

GW had been in contact with Andrew McLellan (East Lothian Council Transport Officer) on behalf of another parent about insufficient capacity on the Macmerry bus. A note would be added to the facebook page on who to contact about bus problems.

LR suggested a change of school tie colour to match piping on the new blazers. **PR** said that new 6th year ties had been introduced this year and he would give consideration to this for the whole school.

9. New Members/Succession Planning

As this was **JB** and **RP**'s final year on the Parent Council, **GW** agreed to take over as Chair and **N Neighbour** as Vice Chair – to be approved at the AGM. The Parent Council presently had representation from 3 parents of 3rd year pupils, 2 parents of 4th years, one parent of a 5th year and 5 of 6th years.

10. AOCB

RP reported back on the last Fa'side Area Partnership (AP) meeting (minutes circulated). A new AP member would be needed to replace **RP** at the end of the year. A new deputy was also needed. It was agreed that the new Area Manager, Simon Davie, should be invited along to the October parent Council meeting and that **DG** would be asked to report back on the AP meeting being held on 25 August 2015. An East Lothian on the Move consultation event was being held from 3.00 – 8.00pm at the Fraser Centre on 1 September 2015.

N Neighbour would be attending a Steering Group meeting of Ross High's Rights Respecting School UNICEF Award initiative on 28 August 2015.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29 September 2015

**N
Neighbour**

SA/DG