



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 24th November 2015**

Present: G Walshe (Chair), R Powell, J Robertson, N Neighbour, A Muir, B Esamal, P Reynolds, Cllr D Grant, N Nicholls (Clerk)

In attendance: J Moore

Apologies: J Belton, L Renwick, L Morrison, Cllr J Gillies, Cllr Kenny McLeod, Cllr S Akhtar

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GW thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>RP said that the P7 parents' evening had been very busy and that postcards advertising the Parent Council had been handed out to every family. N Neighbour said that there had been more likes on the parent Council facebook page. PR asked to be sent a link to easyfundraising so that a reminder could be emailed out about this. PR had discussed with the RME Department ideas for religious observance assemblies. The minutes were approved by RP and seconded by N Neighbour.</p> <p>3. Google Classroom</p> <p>JM gave a demonstration of google classroom using the school's wifi. This was accessed using a secure Edubuzz email address and made use of pupils' own smart devices to enhance teaching and learning and provide transferable skills. Documents were stored online so they could be easily accessed on different devices at home and at school, shared and edited. The suite of applications on google drive included documents, presentations, spreadsheets, gmail and Survey Monkey. Homework tasks could be set online and pupils could easily contact teachers with questions. Groups of pupils could also contribute to a piece of work at the same time in class.</p> <p>JM had run twilight training sessions for staff after school. A recent survey of Ross High staff showed that 85% of 43 responses were using google classroom. Feedback and comments were also submitted. Edmodo was also being used in the school but google classroom was likely to adapt and change in the future.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

Parent Council members welcomed the use of google classroom. It was noted, however, that pupils learned in different ways so it was important for staff to maintain a balance of written and keyboard work. Good handwriting skills were also needed when taking exams. Pupils could hand in work using google classroom, by emailing a document or by hand. The school wanted to ensure equality and had a supply of netbooks for pupils to use if they did not have a smart device with them in class. Google classroom was at present being used more often in the senior part of the school.

4. Head Teacher's Update

The school was looking at various options for Support for Learning as Audrey Arthur intended to retire at Christmas. Janette Thomson would also be retiring and a post for an HE teacher had been advertised.

There had been good feedback from parents at the P7 parents' evening. 66% of parents had attended the S3 parents' evening. It was noted that a text had not been sent out about this but parents had previously been advised of the date. The S4,5,6 parents' evening would be on Thursday 3 December. The school would have a full programme of prelims.

Positive feedback from work experience employers had been received and one company wanted to mentor a pupil through school. Work experience next year was likely to be changed as a week's placement was not suitable for every pupil and the school would be involved in an Education Scotland pilot on new ways to deliver work placements.

Accelerated reading certificates had been awarded. An author, Jonathan Meres, had visited the school. Teaching staff had been working on a school Christmas video. S3 pupils had visited the Museum of Scotland. History pupils had visited Stirling Castle. The under 13s, 14s and 15s football teams were so far undefeated this season. The U15 rugby team had won its league. A team of Ross High Pupils had finished 22nd out of 350 schools in a national maths competition.

Some pupils had represented Ross High at a Scottish Government National Improvement Seminar looking at national testing. A 2nd and 3rd year girls' group had been looking at peer issues. Pupils had helped out at an East Lothian Foodbank open day.

PR thanked Parent Council members for raising £305 at the Quiz Night. It was agreed that this should be put towards a new dance studio and changing rooms along with funding from the Fa'side Area Partnership and Scottish Government.

5. Rights Respecting Schools

The school had received its level 1 Certificate and logo. Staff and pupils were continuing to work to achieve level 2 of this award.

6. Finance Update

AW said that £305 proceeds from the Quiz night had been paid into the Parent

<p>Council bank account so there was now a total of £340.58. AM would be arranging for last year's accounts be audited.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>7. Reporting in the Broad General Education</p> <p>PR handed round a draft chart showing flexible progression pathways which would accompany school reports for years 1 to 3. Parents welcomed this and had a number of comments on content and layout including links for obtaining additional information which PR would incorporate into the final version. The number of individualised options available to pupils was welcomed.</p>	<p>PR</p>
<p>8. Parents' Queries</p> <p>JB had asked if the school's wifi might encourage pupils to congregate in the grounds outside of school hours. PR said that staff had considered this and thought it was unlikely to be a problem as wifi filters were applied.</p> <p>It was reported that some parents were unhappy that pupils were being asked to wear black and white gym kit and that other colours were also suitable. PR said that this was a rolling programme which had been introduced for 1st year pupils last year and but said that he would look into the matter.</p> <p>An email had been received from a parent asking if pupils could be trained in CPR. PR said that pupils were already involved in the Heart Start programme and staff received a rolling programme of first aid training. PR said that he would report back on how often and which pupils received this type of training.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>PR</p>
<p>9. Fundraising</p> <p>The school Burns Supper would be held on 29 January 2015 beginning at 6.30 pm. Tickets would be £25.00 per person including a welcome drink and ceilidh. An email would be sent out to parents about this. The Parent Council would run a raffle with the proceeds being donated to charity.</p>	
<p>10. What you say counts</p> <p>SA had asked for feedback on the East Lothian Council "What you say counts" campaign to promote numeracy. Parent Council members welcomed the initiative. It was noted that primary schools were encouraging pupils to enjoy maths and that 1st years at Ross High had a growth mind set in this area.</p>	
<p>11. AOCB</p> <p>RP asked if there were plans for recycling bins to be used in the school. PR said that a group of pupils was looking at this and that ASDA had offered to supply the school with 7 bins for recycling. DG said that he would find out what plans the council had for recycling in schools.</p>	<p>DG</p>
<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 January 2016</p>	