



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th January 2016

Present: J Belton (Chair), R Powell, J Robertson, A Muir, B Esamal, D Hill, P Reynolds, L Morrison, N Nicholls (Clerk)

Apologies: G Walshe, N Neighbour, L Renwick, Cllr J Gillies, Cllr D Grant, Cllr K McLeod, Cllr S Akhtar

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>JB chaired the meeting in GW's absence. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes were approved by JR and seconded by AM.</p> <p>PR said that heart start courses were running as part of an enrichment course for senior pupils although not all pupils would take this course.</p> <p>PR said that Ross High and North Berwick High Schools were working on a pilot project with Scottish Government's Developing Scotland's Young Workforce on how work experience in the senior phase might be done differently. The aim would be to target work experience better according to pupils' career plans. This would be discussed with Education Scotland during the February in service day.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>A fourth Principal Guidance teacher for attainment would be retained in the school until the end of the session although there were presently three Houses in the school. The structure of Support for Learning would be changing following the retirement of Audrey Arthur, Support for Learning teacher, with the appointment instead of two Support for Learning workers with skills in social and emotional behaviour. Janette Thomson, Home Economics Teacher, had retired at Christmas. A new HE teacher had been recruited but was not able to take up post until August so a short term supply teacher was being sought. Any 2nd year pupils who missed out on HE classes would be offered these at a later date. Interviews for a CDT teacher had taken place but an appointment had not yet been made. An advert for a permanent Biology Teacher would be placed shortly and a supply teacher would cover a vacancy in the Geography Department from the end of March.</p>	

PR said that he had been part of the panel for a very successful “Ross Can Do” Dragons’ Den type event along with the Director of Canon UK and a Sky Sport Ambassador.

The space used for the S4-S6 parents’ evening had been extended following feedback from last year. Parent Council Members suggested that this could be even more to ensure that parents and teachers were able to have confidential discussions. The second year curriculum evening went well with lots of good feedback.

Under 16s football teams were in the last 16 of the Scottish schools’ cup and a number of pupils were excelling in other sports.

There had been a successful maths challenge event and an enjoyable Christmas senior pupils’ dance. The school show in June would be the Little Shop of Horrors.

Spanish would be part of the curriculum for the senior school next year and all 1st years next year would study two languages. Pupils studying French now would also be offered Spanish in the 3rd year. A consideration for the future was whether or not to make a language compulsory in the curriculum.

The school’s Quality Improvement Inspection would be taking place next week. Prelims would be starting soon.

4. Finance Update

There was now £340.60 in the Parent Council bank account. **AM** would arrange for last year’s accounts to be audited.

5. Sports Kit for PE and Sports Teams

PR asked for parents’ views on the black and white PE kit which was being rolled out in the school. Parents felt that shorts and t shirts in other colours would also be suitable provided that these were not football colours. **PR** said that he would feed this information back to the PE Department.

There was a discussion about how hoodies and tracksuits could be provided to pupils in the school in an inclusive way through fundraising and/or sponsorship so that parents would not need to pay for them.

6. Fundraising

There was a brief discussion about the bingo night which would be held on Wednesday 16 March. This would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Burns Supper

AM

Parent Council members had been collecting raffle prizes for the school Burns Supper.

N Nicholls

8. Course Choices

Course choice forms had been given to pupils. Parent Council members suggested that it might be useful to also let parents know that the forms had been issued. All pupils would have 3 – 4 weeks in which to make their choices and each pupil would be have an appointment with a staff member to discuss their choices.

9. Fa'side Area Partnership

RP had circulated papers for the Fa'side Area Partnership (AP) meeting which was being held on 26 January 2016. **RP** was a member of the Active Travel sub-group which looked at bus links and ways to encourage walking and cycling. There was a cycling project and also a plan to carry out an audit of the 6km of core paths in the area to assess their condition and interview people using them. Volunteers would be asked to help with this work. The AP had £500 which need to be spent before the end of the financial year and this would receive match funding from an East Lothian Council active travel fund. It was likely that expenditure will be on items which could be taken forward fairly quickly such as new signage. There were 70-80 items in the area plan which would benefit the whole community including new changing rooms and a dance studio at the school. **RP** would be leaving the Parent Council at the end of the academic year and new Ross High School Parent council representatives would be needed on the AP.

10. Parents' Queries

It was agreed that it would be useful for the school to produce a 6th year/16+ handbook which could include information about university open days, the 6th year common room, study periods, and deadlines for the preparation of UCAS personal statements.

It was noted that some pupils had missed PSE lessons because they attended academies or the school of rugby and that it was important for staff to pass on particularly important information eg. with regard to UCAS to those pupils.

11. AOCB

There was none.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2016

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