



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 23th February 2016**

Present: G Walshe, A Muir, J Robertson, B Esamal, J Belton, R Powell, L Renwick, N Neighbour, P Reynolds, Cllr. J Gillies, Cllr K McLeod, N Nicholls (Minutes)

Apologies: D Hill, L Morrison, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr. D Grant

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>JG congratulated the school on holding a very successful Burns Supper.</p> <p>PR thanked parents for their offer of help in arranging for former pupils to talk to senior pupils and that the production of a 6th year booklet had been discussed with staff. PR would report back to the Parent Council on progress.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved by LR and seconded by JB.</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update</p> <p>A temporary HE teacher had been working in the school two days per week until the permanent appointment takes up post in August. Advertisements had been placed for an English teacher and a CDT teacher. Adverts would be placed after 26 February 2016 for teachers in English, Chemistry, Music and Modern Studies to take up post in August. Probationary teachers would also be working in the school next year.</p> <p>PR thanked everyone for their support in helping to arrange the Burns Supper. This had been a great success and £600 had been raised for the S6 London trip. It was agreed that the event should be held again next year, but as catering costs were likely to be more expensive it might not be a fundraising event.</p> <p>The S6 London trip had been very successful and PR had received excellent feedback from pupils about how much they had enjoyed the trip.</p> <p>The under 14s football team had reached the quarter finals of the Schools' Cup which would be held on March 16th. Callum Wilson had won a gold medal for</p>	<p>PR</p>

judo and Isla Thom had won the schools section of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Award (instrumental category).

Gill Imery, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland had addressed a Higher Modern Studies class. David Criuckhshank and Clare O'Neill from the Edinburgh Office of Deloitte UK had given a talk to 5th year pupils as part of the Speakers for Schools programme. **GW** mentioned that KPMG also worked with schools.

There had been extended assemblies to mark World Holocaust Day.

PR had watched a superb performance of Lord of the Flies in a drama class. The school show of the Little Shop of Horrors would be held in June. **PR** was thinking about changing the format of the Celebration of Success Evening perhaps to include video clips and would consult the Parent Council about this.

Feedback from pupils on S2 course choice interviews was good. All pupils and their parents would be able to discuss choices with a senior member of staff. The same arrangements would also be made for S3, S4 and S5 pupils making choices for years 4, 5 and 6.

Andrew Millar from Education Scotland had spoken at the last in-service day about Education Scotland's Young Workforce and the evaluation of work experience carried out by pupils. Ross High was involved in a work experience pilot programme with East Lothian Works. Dr Lynne Binnie, East Lothian Council Principal Educational Psychologist also gave a refresher talk to staff on the use of restorative practice. **PR** had been contacted by staff of two schools who wished to visit Ross High.

Prelim results were presently being analysed and would be used in discussions about attainment with pupils and staff.

4. Finance Update

There was no change - £340.60 in the Parent Council bank account.

5. School Streets - Traffic Prohibition Traffic Regulation Orders

There was a discussion about a new East Lothian Council (ELC) Assessment Policy to introduce "School streets" Traffic Prohibition Regulation Orders to improve road safety around East Lothian schools. Documents about this including the results of an initial review of ELC schools had been circulated. It was noted that only 5% of pupils travelled to Ross High School by car.

6. Fundraising

It was agreed that the Bingo Night should be re-arranged for a future date. It was suggested that instead the Parent Council could hold a fundraising raffle and/or stand-up bingo at the school show. **PR** would speak to the organisers of the show about this. **PR** also said that thought would need to be given to how best to spend money raised from the school sponsored walk in order to benefit pupils. **GW** and **N Neighbour** would find out more about the pros and cons of the Parent Council applying for charity status.

PR

7. National Improvement Framework

A National Parent Forum of Scotland document outlining the new Scottish Government National Improvement Framework strategy was discussed. **PR** said that the strategy aimed to raise attainment for all and to reduce inequality in education. There would be national testing at P1, P4, P7 and S3 piloted in some schools in 2016/17 and rolled out to all schools from 2017/18. Schools would be expected to produce reports each year to show how they were raising attainment and addressing inequality and would also aim to increase parental involvement. This would work alongside existing Education Scotland reporting on How Good is our School (HGIOS), positive destinations and Education Scotland's Young Workforce. Some schools in the most deprived areas of the country would receive extra government funding.

PR said that testing already took place in East Lothian to assess schools' performance at Primary level and in the Broad General Education (years S1-S3) alongside the professional judgment of teaching staff. Local authorities in Scotland presently used different systems to carry out this type of assessment.

Parents queried whether there was evidence to show that testing raises attainment and were concerned that this could give rise to league tables which did not properly reflect the quality of education provided by schools. It was also noted that testing might not reflect the "journey travelled" by pupils in their school careers. The testing and professional development of teachers was also important and it was suggested that more work could be done at the pre-school stage to improve outcomes for children.

8. Parents' Queries

PR said that best means of contacting a subject teacher was through a pupil's Guidance Teacher or to speak to him direct.

9. AOCB

GW said that the school did not have hockey face masks used for short corners for teams in the junior part of the school. These cost £26.50 each and 4 would be needed for each team. There were two first year teams, two second year teams and one joint third/fourth year team – 5 in total. **PR** would discuss this with Mark Urwin. Everyone thought it was great that so many girls were playing hockey.

PR

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22rd March 2016