



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Tuesday 27th March 2018**

**Present:** G Walshe (Chair), N Neighbour (Vice Chair), R Averbuch, D Middlemass, L Taylor, B Sanchez, B Esamal

**In Attendance:** P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), W Thornton, J Dall, L Donohoe, J Ramsay, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr B Small

**Apologies:** Cllr K McLeod, Cllr S Akhtar, D Hill, J Robertson, A Muir

| Minutes   | Action |
|---|--------|
| <p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b><br/>GW welcomed everyone to the meeting. GW indicated that as this was a shortened meeting (a later start because of the consultation on school extension plans which preceded the meeting), a number of items would be postponed until the April meeting.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising</b><br/>PR reported back on the pilot review which recently took place in the school. This was a tough experience, but worthwhile and good preparation for the external review system. The review has identified areas the school can work on and improve upon. Learning and Teaching will be a key focus for the next School Improvement Plan. Review identified that the school does many great things, but that these need to be seen in the classroom as well as elsewhere.</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 27th February 2018 were approved.<br/>Proposed by DM and Seconded by LT</p> <p><b>3. Head Teacher's Update</b><br/>PR provided an update on activity within the school over the last month. Jenny Kerr will be leaving Ross High to move to the Borders. An advert has been placed for a Modern Languages teacher.<br/>There is a vacancy for a Computing teacher – this is a 1 year appointment<br/>Sarah Ingham will take up a post as RME teacher after the Spring break.</p> <p>School was disrupted by the recent red weather warning and consequent 'snow days'. The Head of Education has praised the school for the distance learning staff put into place during this time.</p> <p>The rescheduled Jobs Roadshow (postponed due to snow) took place this week.</p> <p>The recent S1 parents' evening enjoyed a 74% attendance, consistent with attendance for this event in previous years.</p> <p>The school is working with Procurement to put an online booking system into place for appointments for parents' evenings. This should be ready for the next school session. This system should streamline the process to the benefit of teachers and parents.</p> <p>Course choice meetings have taken place for S2-S5. This was a mammoth task involving approximately 600 parents. This process may also benefit from an online booking system.</p> <p>An 'options' evening was held for senior pupils, outlining the variety of pathways on offer for them.</p> |        |

A number of Ross High pupils were involved in the ELC music showcase.

The BBC school news report can be found on the school website.

Soulacoaster poster is on the school website.

Swim team have won a number of cups recently- S1 Champions, S2 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and S3 Overall Champions at East Lothian S1-S3 East Lothian Championships Pupils from the ASN department took part in the East Lothian Youth Summit for the first time.

Emily Rennie and Dylan Shepherd recently met with Nicola Sturgeon.

Girls from Ross High visited Musselburgh's Astrosat – part of a Girls into STEM initiative led by EL Works.

Callum Wilson won a bronze medal in Judo at the British School Championships

Some junior pupils attended and successfully attained a Motorcycle Project certificate.

Some pupils attend 'Bloke of Steel' an event about graphic novels, hosted by the author.

U18s Hockey Team remain unbeaten

Orla Reavy won the Chaplaincy Challenge.

20 youngsters attended a mental health awareness event 'Speak your Mind'

A number of pupils have used the Geobus which recently came to the school

Tots & Teens – a new playgroup within the school which is staffed by ELC Early Years workers, and which provides an opportunity for pupils to volunteer as helpers. This counts as a work placement to assist them with applications for training to work youngsters.

JD raised the 'achievements' text which was sent out today. She followed the link and completed the details but asked whether there is a way to set up an acknowledgment for submissions. JD also asked whether the box for specifying achievements could be made larger. A suggestion was made to add an 'I am not a robot' function to it. The information gathered will be used to assign house points and celebrate pupils' achievements – this may be by way of a quiet acknowledgement with the pupil.

PR reported that there has been an increase in House activities this year, but hopes that this aspect of school life will continue to be expanded.

#### **4. Parental Engagement strategy 2018**

MD confirmed plans for the Parental Engagement Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> March are going well. A variety of workshops will be available, and parents can sign up on the night. The evening begins at 5.45. PR will do a quick address to parents before they attend workshops. There will be a variety of information stalls in the Social Area. GW, NN and BS will set up a Parent Council stall.

MD and GF will co-ordinate signups for workshops.

There was some discussion about whether primary schools had communicated details of the evening to their Parent Forum. Consensus that some schools had done so, but unclear whether all schools had.

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

Balance of bank account at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was £349.51.

**PR**  
**GW/NN/BS**  
**MD/GF**

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| <p><b>6. Area Partnership</b><br/>To be updated at April meeting. Next AP meeting is on 10.04.2018</p>   | <p><b>NN</b></p> |
| <p><b>7. School Improvement Plan</b><br/>To be discussed at April meeting.</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>8. Fundraising</b><br/>Focus on Soulacoaster event on 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm.</p>  |                  |
| <p>NN confirmed that arrangements are in place with bands and sound engineer. Confirmation that all equipment has been sourced is still required, but NN confident that this will be resolved. Sound engineer has checked the sound equipment.</p>   | <p><b>NN</b></p> |
| <p>Art department have been very helpful in putting together posters for the event, which have now been shared electronically and on Social Media. Hard copies were due to be ready for this meeting, but have been delayed. NN hopes to have some for Parental Engagement Conference, where the event will be promoted.</p> | <p><b>NN</b></p> |
| <p>LT, GW, RA, LD, BS confirmed that they can help on the night of the event. Help will be needed for taking/selling tickets, taking coats, and with clear up at the end.</p>  |                  |
| <p>Doors open 8pm with first band playing at 8.30pm. Main band should finish no later than 11.30 allowing time for clear up and taking down of equipment before midnight.</p>  |                  |
| <p>NN to order glasses, and ink stampers.</p>  | <p><b>NN</b></p> |
| <p>Discussion about prizes for winners of poster competition. Charlotte McMillan has offered to provide prizes by way of sponsorship by her music school. All agreed she can have flyers on tables on the night.</p>   |                  |
| <p>NN asked that all PC members continue to promote the event and asked that each member attempt to sell 5 or 10 tickets.</p>  |                  |
| <p>NN to continue finalising arrangements for the event, and will communicate with members as appropriate.</p>   | <p><b>NN</b></p> |
| <p>PR confirmed that janitor will set up tables in the hall, and that fairy lights can be used. Tables from social area to be set up along the sides of the hall. School to provide hanging rail for coats, and signage for the toilets.</p>   | <p><b>PR</b></p> |
| <p><b>9. Parents' Queries</b><br/>There were none.</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>10. AOCB</b><br/>There were none.</p>  |                  |
| <p><b>Date of Next Meetings:</b><br/>Next Parent Council meeting 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018</p>  |                  |