



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 24th April 2018

Present: N Neighbour (Vice Chair), R Averbuch, D Middlemass, L Taylor, B Esamal, A Muir, J Robertson

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), M Donnelly (Principal Teacher), G Forsyth (Teacher), L Donohoe, W Thornton, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr S Akhtar, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr K McLeod, Cllr B Small, Cllr J McMillan, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr C McGinn, G Walshe, J Dall, B Sanchez, D Hill

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies NN welcomed everyone to the meeting in GW's absence. Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The Parental Engagement Conference went really well and will be used to inform the School Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The feedback from the Conference was really good. LT said that the Google Classroom workshop was really busy. NN said that the Mental Health workshop was really good too. RA reported feedback from P7 parents who said that the event was interesting and useful. MD said that not many parents from P6/7 attended, so would try to push for more to come next year. PR will talk to Primary School's Head Teachers for next year to encourage more to attend.</p> <p>PR gave Thanks to MD and GF for all their hard work, fantastic!</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 27th March 2018 were approved. Proposed by RA and Seconded by DM</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's Update PR provided a short update this time due to Easter holiday.</p> <p>PR, DM and GF were just back from the Staff Football, which was won by the pupils.</p> <p>The exams are starting again so a very busy time for the pupils. Who requires interventions and who needs more study is now clearer from last year's Exam results.</p> <p>For Staffing, there are successful recruitments of a Teacher in Religious and moral education (RME), a new English Teacher and two more Language Teachers. Also two babies were born to staff, and one Teacher got engaged.</p> <p>John Young came in to speak about his novel "Farewell Tour of a Terminal Optimist" which was much appreciated by the pupils.</p> <p>Sports Award had lots of winners for example the Ross High Hockey Team, well done!</p> <p>The Chemistry Teacher Wendy Adams has been chosen as one of 100 future Teachers in Science and was featured in the local newspaper. PR is delighted and said that it is well deserved.</p> <p>Also coming up is study leave, Laser Tag day and S6 Graduation day.</p> <p>School Extension Plans is to start the work in 2019 and be finished by 2020. PR will speak to the Architect about space for bikes and mention the Area Partnership (AP) plans. Perhaps also have some Space for Scooters as they are popular at the moment with the teenagers. RA said that as long as the AP, Schools and Councils are on board, it should be fine to get the funds needed. SA suggested speaking directly to Simon</p>	<p>PR</p>

<p>Davie as this is a good idea. RA has a contact and will pass this on.</p>	RA
<p>4. Parental Engagement strategy 2018 NN said that the communication could be better. RA said that there also is so much info from social media and it is harder to get peoples attention. PR will speak to someone. GF will have it in the Monthly Information Folder (MIF) too.</p> <p>PR said that a pamphlet to go out to all parents would be well worth having to help to supporting in children’s learning at home with revision techniques, useful links etc. MD said that a parental Google classroom would be useful for parents and could put on study tips there.</p>	PR GF
<p>RA asked if there are any analytics to identify how many parents are viewing each page? Not at the moment and RA offered to help set this up.</p> <p>NN said that the school calendar needs to be updated. LD said that the calendar is not linked to school calendars so someone will need to manually update it.</p>	RA
<p>5. Finance Update Balance of bank account at 24th April 2018 was £935.53.</p> <p>The Soulacouster event brought in £1050.00 in total leaving a healthy profit of £528.00 after the expenses in connection with the event were paid.</p> <p>Easy Fundraising brought in £26.81.</p>	
<p>The Parent Council members also agreed to fund thank you gifts for those who have provided extra help and support. AM and PR will organise this.</p>	AM PR
<p>6. Area Partnership The Area Partnership (AP) is completing the Locality Plan for the next 10 years. They have asked for feedback and comments. NN will collate the feedback and would like all comments returned by the 4th May.</p> <p>PR said that the statistics are really valuable because the plan is dictated by data so should remain.</p>	NN
<p>RA said that it is useful to see school meals and poverty related issues highlighted. For example statistics suggest that a high percentage regularly take care of someone in the family. PR said that there has been an increase in the Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) budget however not everyone eligible applies for it. PR said that the school could help to complete the forms however they need to gather the data themselves, which could be a challenge.</p> <p>NN said that the Education Initiavite budget has been reduced to half and the funds have gone straight into Education instead. SA said that the final decision is with the AP about where the funds go and for the Head Teacher to also make decisions.</p>	
<p>VB will resend the information because not everyone was able to open it.</p>	VB
<p>7. School Improvement Plan The School Improvement Plan was discussed, consulting on all topics from school. Additional items were taken on board and will be added to the draft plan</p> <p>Some of the highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an interesting focus on exams on broadening the education focus • There is an area of development for the National improvement Framework with local improvements. For example junior years focus to make sure the work is appropriate for all children with interventions, Teachers learning, classroom practise and external help to think about the learner’s experience. • Focus on Practice rather than Theory this year. Next year will be the year of High Standards and Expected Standards documents with lessons starting with an activity and learning attention experience. 	

- Another big change might be the school day timing. For example to a 33h week rather than 27h.
- A new Curriculum and Advanced Higher and National four is changing for next year. GF said that the change would focus on skills.

PR asked the Parent Council members if the parents want to see anything else in the School Improvement Plan. A discussion followed on adding homework and how parents can find out how well their children are doing early.

Homework

PR said that homework would be covered as a policy and also as part of the classroom practice, for example Mathematics. It is about the type of homework rather than just assigning homework. LT added that reading and maths are the only relevant subjects for primary and junior years. RA said it is about the big picture and not just about one type of learning. PR added that for everyday homework, the important ones are the numeracy and reading which needs to be done outwith school. If not done it will be lost. DM said that Google Classroom doesn't help with spelling so to add a tool to help with this would be really useful. GF said that each unit and end of unit report is part of an assessment and is done at home. These depend on who the Teachers are as well however as long as it is valuable, this is fine.

For parents to find out pupils progress

PR said that parents usually have to wait until the Parent Evening to find out how well their children are doing. LD asked how serious does it have to be for the school to say that the pupil could be better and contact the parents? PR said that Ross High have doubled the amount of Guidance Teachers (GT) so it is clear who the first contact for each pupil are. Any concerns from the Teachers will be raised through GT with the parents straight away. Looking at data and interventions, some pupils wont be flagged if their attainment is high however there are four sessions with parents per year so the parents will find out eventually if there is a problem. AM said that it is easy for parents to worry to much sometimes in first years. JR said that usually the children settle over time.

PR will send info about an article highlighting the setting, which will be discussed at the next meeting. VB will circulate to the group.

PR said thanks very much to everyone for really useful discussions, which is a great strength of this group.

8. Fundraising

NN thanked The Parent Council members who helped with and attended the Soulacoaster event. It was great fun and a really good night with about 100 people attending. The feedback was that it was a great evening and a lovely atmosphere. NN also thanked Charlotte McMillan and Ian Bruce from Lband, both expressed that they would be happy to help again. RA said that it would be a good opportunity to have these regular with a specific fundraising target next time. Some people also still have tickets to be handed back.

The Parent Council members were keen to have a Quiz night and asked if a date could be set. JR said that last year this was in September, which worked well. RA suggested inviting the P7 parents too as it is a great opportunity to get them on board early.

The Parent Council members were asked to come up with funding requests, as it is a healthy bank balance at the moment.

9. Parents' Queries

There were none.

10. AOCB

Apprenticeships in a nutshell from National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFSS). There will be a Curriculum evening and a link to the Facebook page too. This can also be given

VB

out to P7 however it was decided that this might be too soon and there will be plenty of opportunity to see this information later.

SA reminded everyone about the East Lothian Association of Parent Council Members (ELAPCM) meeting tomorrow and it would be great to have representation from Ross High.

The need for Foster Carers in East Lothian have been mentioned and shared.

The former Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC) is now known as Connect.

A question if Parent council members would need to have Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checks? Not for their position, only if needed in their work as usual.

S1 have their transition with a two-day induction in June. Would be great if the Parent Council could be represented to share what they do.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on 28th August 2018.

It was decided that the meeting scheduled on 29th May 2018 would be a BBQ or a meal instead.