



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

ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 26th April 2022

Present: L Donohoe (Chair), G Kenzie (Vice Chair), H Boyle, J Dall, K McFarlane, D Hill, R Averbuch

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), R Scott-Thomas (Teacher), Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr F Dugdale, J Gordon, W Thornton, J Fraser, V Brown (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr K McLeod, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr G Mackett, Cllr J McMillan, C McMillan, M Harrington, M Macdonald

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies LD welcomed everyone to the Parent Council meeting</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters Arising The past minutes from 29th March 2022 were approved.</p> <p>Proposed DH, Second LD</p> <p>Upcoming dates: Thursday 9th June - Graduation night Friday 10th June - The Prom</p> <p>3. Head Teacher's update Staffing: Guidance Teachers are off just now and Darren Stanfield and Louse Carrol is covering short term or until the Summer break. We will be interviewing for Guidance Teacher next week. We are also advertising for ASN Pupil Support and please pass on to anyone who might be interested to apply and no special ASN experience is needed. They are moving to 5 classrooms from 4 next year so there will be more recruitment next session too.</p> <p>Exams: These starts tomorrow and the hall is set up. We had Geography for the first time and 99% attendance for NAT5 and slightly less for Higher. Photography and PE is at the end of the week and great so far. Emersion classes for catch up are available and we are also targeting pupils to complete work.</p> <p>Covid: With the change in guidance, masks are not needed in schools anymore and the pupils won't need to wear them at the exams. Everyone who wants to wear masks are welcome to do so. It is nice to be able to see the pupils faces again.</p> <p>School communication: A letter went out to all parents recently as whole year groups were hit hard with covid and home learning. The First, Second and Third years are now in school until end of June because the seniors have exam leave so there will be enough staff even with covid absences.</p> <p>Course choices: We are still doing the time tabling with the courses for next session and we are getting ready. We are still waiting for S3 course choices and still have time and don't want to rush it as we are making sure we are getting the best choices for each pupil.</p>	

The school finance: The financial year end finished well and we have a good budget for the next session and our Business Manager Paula O'Neill is working really hard, thanks very much. We are all set and positive going into next year.

School uniforms: We have had great parental support and feedback so far about pupils wearing black and white school uniform, which is great. It is important to have parents on board to help deal with it as well as school staff. A question has been circulated if girls have to wear skirts? And if jumpers are ok to wear? PR said that both uniform trousers and jumpers are fine. What is classes as trousers and not ok trousers is open to interpretation and there is a difference between black fitted trousers, fine trousers like leggings and blue joggers. If it looks smart it is fine. We are relaxed on shoes and we are still learning from what works and not and black shoes and black trainers are fine. If anyone is unsure or have any questions they want to clarify, just pick up the phone and we can chat about it.

SIP: We are working on the School Improvement plan for the next session. Highlighted was to introduce a celebration or event similar to 6th year graduation for the leavers from 4th and 5th year that are leaving school earlier. We will look to find best practice or processes from other schools and have tracking in place to make sure that all leavers are included in the celebrations.

Achievement: The Monthly information sheet is coming soon where individual pupil achievement is mentioned. There are lots of great victories during the Easter holiday in various sports for example the swim team has won 3rd prize for Scotland and also great achievements in Judo, Football etc.

School Extension: We are close to getting ready with the final work on the school extension. The reception has a new window to brighten up and PE has a big opening and it looks fantastic. We are looking at moving back to having one break and one lunch. We still need the 6th year common room before we can change the break time because we need more pupil's space for them to socialize. The new timetable is coming in June.

Trips: Activities week is going to change and the suggestion is to have an end of year trip on one day for each year group to help improve attendance. The day trip suggestions were East links, Blair Drummond, M&D theme park, Blackpool, Fox Lake and Flamingo land. The pupils will be going in their year groups and it will be a fun day out. It is difficult to find somewhere where they are able to take 200-300 pupils and it is important to make sure it is equity and that the cost is not a barrier for not attending. The ELC Education Trust Fund can help with transport cost. Having trips is a great opportunity and such a valuable experience for the pupils.

4. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 1st April 2022 is £4308.24

We have 33p interest in our old account that will be transferred across to the new account. The old account can then be closed if the Parent Council members agrees.

Fundraising: This month our lottery support has dropped by 1 supporter and 2 tickets. It's still showing as on track to raise an annual total of £4030. Since the start of the lottery this projected annual total has fallen by £1300.

CMcM has contacted Tranent CC and they will ask about funding for us at their next meeting as well as to advertise any fundraising efforts we may have in future on a radio programme.

PR is looking at our fundraising strategy and will advise once decided. PR will include the PC info letter with the next newsletter and monthly info sheet.

The PC members approved to make a charity donation to Lyn Tailors charity and CMcM will organise.

PR

CMcM

The Prom: Some senior pupils went to Eskmill to meet with the venu for the Prom and everything appears to be in hand. 82 pupils are attending, 14 staff for the meal and 6 for the dance only.

We have received a generous £250 donation to cover the shortfall so the PC will now only need to contribute £24 in total. Thanks very much.

Having pupils attending to be photographers was discussed and £50 is authorised as an incentive to them.

5. Parents' queries

A parent question about what the Graduation night might look like? PR said that the pupils are wearing their gowns and hats and are invited onto the stage and PR will be saying something about everyone. They are getting their certificate and there is music and we are trying to make it into a special occasion for them.

A Question about the Course choices and what decides what courses are on offer, for example Media? It is the curriculum offer that has been introduced together with staff and pupil choice and is consulted and agreed with staff and with the Head Teacher as responsible for the final decision. We have had Media in the past and it unfortunately had poor attainment so it is not on offer at the moment. We will look into introducing new courses if for example 20 pupils want it and it depends on staffing as well as attainment. Pupil choices and popularity is driving the course choices. We also have a reciprocal agreements between schools as well and subjects are driven from Primary Schools too. It is great that Ross is a large school because we can have a bigger offer and more choice for everyone.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st May 2022