



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

**ROSS HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Meeting of Tuesday 31st May 2022**

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

In Attendance: P Reynolds (Head Teacher), R Scott-Thomas (Teacher), A Archer (DHT), Cllr T Trotter, Cllr C McGinn, Cllr L-A Menzies, Cllr G McGuire, M Harrington, C Galvin, J Gordon, V Brown (Clerk),

Apologies: Cllr K McLeod, Cllr F Dugdale, Cllr S Akhtar, Cllr J McMillan, C McMillan

Minutes	Action
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies LD welcomed everybody to the Parent Council meeting and gave an introduction of the parent and staff members. Especially welcome to the new Councillors Lee-Anne Menzies and George McGuire.</p> <p>Apologies as above.</p> <p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising The minutes from the meeting in April was approved, Proposed by JF and Second by JD</p> <p>3. Boys' Engagement Depute Head Teacher Ann Archer was invited to talk about the engagement and attainment of boys. There is clear data that boys don't achieve as well as girls do, especially for the senior phase. It is difficult however we are trying to find the underlying cause and reason and will be working on trying to improve it for the next few years.</p> <p>A consultation has been circulated where parents are encouraged to give feedback on own observations and insight into learning and engagement and support given. VB will circulate this to the members. AA will also ask staff, pupils and the wider community for their opinions.</p> <p>Feedback so far has been brilliant and AA also welcomes anyone to get in touch with her if they want to chat about things.</p> <p>Question if the difference between boys and girls are across all curriculum or some subjects in particular? AA said that it is especially for literacy and numeracy and has spoken to an Attainment adviser who is looking at tariff points. These are points given by SQA to be able to collate attainment to be able to measure how well a school is achieving.</p> <p>Question about asking the boys themselves? AA has started asking year groups of varying achievement and will widen this and will also include girls opinions.</p> <p>Question if worse since covid? AA said that covid has played a part and we are trying to get back on track again with the learning and we are positive.</p> <p>The PC will get more feedback in the autumn on the collected data and we are looking for solutions and in it together.</p> <p>4. Head Teachers update Exams: The exams were the first ones in years and it was a great success thanks to AA and a great invigilation team. Thanks very much. AA said big thanks to the chief invigilator who worked incredible hard and the last exam is tomorrow.</p>	<p>VB</p>

Current info: Sad news, English Teacher, Lesley Morrison passed away last week. Heartfelt sympathy and we wish the best to her family.

Sports day is happening next week on Tuesday.

The S2 pupils has had a two day STEM event this week with lots of different activities, like First aid and the Army being here. It went really well with great feedback and thanks to the DYW coordinators who organised it.

The school raised £1000 so far for the Dnipro Kids charity for Ukrainian refugees. We will do a walk as a collective through crowd funding and not asking monies from parents or pupils for this as we are mindful that there are other costs at this time of year.

P7 pupils are here in the next two weeks as part of the P7-S1 transition and they are given a tour and Q&A session and the P7 Parents transition evening is on Thursday 23rd June.

HPV vaccination is happening in the next two days. It is run by the NHS nurses and info and consent forms has gone out to the individuals that are due the vaccine and they are keeping records of who is to get first dose and second dose so everyone will get what they are due with no duplication. If consent was given for the first dose, then this is valid for the second dose as well. The pupils are given time slots and there are drop in sessions as well. Pupils over the age of 12 can sign their own consent form.

Timetable: We are moving back to one break and lunch with the new timetable that will start on Monday 6th June.

Senior induction: Pupils going into S5 and S6 will have an induction day with a silent disco, rollerskating and team building activities. We are asking pupils to sign up on google classroom so we can confirm numbers and to wear house colours on the day.

School extension: Work will continue during the summer holiday to finish toilets, classrooms and PE facilities. Tours of the new building will be organised.

Celebration: The senior graduation night is on 9th June and the Prom is on 10th June.

Celebration of success and the sports personality of the year will be at the beginning of the next session in August/September time.

Activity week: End of term trips is happening and with covid and missing out in previous years, we are making sure that all pupils are given the opportunity to go on a trip this time. Big thanks to Mrs Scott-Thomas who has been working together with Cllr Akhtar to make sure that finance is not a barrier and that everyone get a chance to go on a trip. Big thanks to the PC members for the feedback on trips at the last meeting. There will be something on at school for the ones who choose not to go too and this is absolutely fine.

Staffing: We will be advertising for Teachers in PE, RME and CDT. We also have some support posts advertised.

Success: S1 girls won a National tournament and this was shown on BBC Alba, well done.

Also success in football matches played in good spirit, however people in the community has not finished the game well. PR is working together with the Police, ELC and the community as we need a clear plan and a safe environment. There is a tournament next week and we are hoping that this can go ahead. Cllr McGinn said that there has been games in other towns and posts on social media and young people planning on travelling across the country and the Police are aware of people coming along to games from outwith the area. If anyone hear about an area event, please call 101 or drop a message to let someone know about it to keep people aware.

LD said big thanks for the exam immersion day as it was very helpful. PR said that we had lots of positive feedback from pupils as well as staff, which is great.

5. School Improvement Planning

The SIP for the next session was circulated to the PC members for their input before finalising it and feedback is welcome. Included is Attainment, Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing and how we teach it and improving our practice and looking at data to see impact on the pupils. We are trying to make it a safe and enjoyable experience in school with our pupils able to leave for positive destinations.

LD mentioned about Parental Engagement and following a discussion, 'How to engage the wider parent forum' will be an agenda item at the next meeting in August.

GK liked the fresh ideas as well as going back to basics with attainment and engagement at ground level. PR said big thanks for the feedback and is looking at things that are done well with quality in learning and teaching because we are still in recovery from covid and we are looking very positively on the next session.

JF talked about staying positive while facing challenges and perhaps looking critically on being a gold rights respecting school and get people talking about what we can do better. PR said that it is about what we are trying to do and how we respond to challenges and work together with the community teaching the pupils good character and lots of hard work has gone into being a gold rights respecting school.

Cllr L-A Menzies spoke about seeing opportunities to support young people and to make interventions instead of seeing issues with the rise in antisocial behaviour due to covid.

PR said that a National document will be coming out from Children's Parliament about girls experience in schools. A discussion followed and big thanks for being able to have a forum where we can be honest and talk openly about problems as they do exist and we are trying to see the bigger picture and help the pupils. Great discussion, thanks everyone.

6. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 31st May 2022 is £4095.24.

The cost of a DJ for the Prom is £420 less the £250 donation so this only cost us £170. We have given out two donations, one to Venturing out and another to the Charity for Lyn Taylor's family.

Still to be paid for is the Photographer for the Prom, big thanks to the Art department for organising.

The PC members has approved funding of Chrome books for the school and CMcM will transfer this before end of the session. This leaves only a small amount of money in the bank however this will build up again with about £300 per month from the lottery. We also use Easy Fundraising however doesn't bring in much funds.

It was discussed how to get the lottery numbers up with advertising and leaflets with new S1 coming in as the lottery is the reason we can pay for things. We will talk about other ways to fundraise at the start of the next session, for example a sponsored walk.

LD will come to the P7 Parent evening on 23th June to introduce the PC to new families.

7. AOCB

Having Parent Council meetings in person again was discussed and we will look into it in August and perhaps having a consultation to find out preference.

A Uniform consultation will be going out in the next few days.

Question about work experience? PR said that this will be starting again and parents are welcome to help organise this and just to get in touch with their Guidance Teacher, Mrs Mack or Mrs Dalton to discuss.

CG said thanks for opportunity for some pupils to go to Glasgow to speak about gender based budgeting. The next event is on 27th June and VB will circulate the link.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 30th August 2022

VB