

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, 21st February 2017 at 7.30pm
In the Learning Resource Centre

MINUTES

Present:

Campbell Wilson, Margaret Hogg, Kirsty Worsley, Lorraine Sykes, Chris Knight, Vanessa Rice, Glenda Barton, Vivienne Leckie and Mirren McLeod

Apologies:

Laura Robertson, Sandra Grieve, Eleanor Fairbairn, Monica Shaw, Lisa Houston, Gail Jackson and Tommy Davidson

Spiderphone:

Tommy Davidson couldn't make the meeting to set it up so CW will trial it. The spider phone is for parents who want to take part in a meeting but can't make it.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes accepted.

Matters Arising:

Governance Review: There were a few responses from parents. MH put an official response together, sent it around parents for comment and then submitted it to the Government. The review has now closed.

Flexible Pathways: CW, MH, JN and GB met recently. They have a list of questions for a survey confirmed. S5 and S6 students will be surveyed first. The survey will go to all S5 Maths and English classes which should also catch most S6's. They are hoping for at least 200 out of 300 students to participate. Parents will be surveyed later on.

Languages: GJ and Mrs Reville had a chat. The school is teaching for the SQA exam with very good results. CW has spoken with Mrs Reville and the school are now investing £3,000 on a conversation resource for S1's. CW to invite Mrs Reville to come to a PC meeting to be involved in a discussion about this.

Engineers Club: The school are looking to undertake the BBC-Microbit Rocket car challenge in May with some S2/3 students. Mr Whately and Mr Campbell are looking at another Microbit project to potentially run during health week with a view to this becoming part of a relaunched YEC/STEM club.

There is another STEM project that Mr Whately is investigating at the moment looking at innovative technology solutions to student identified problems.

The 3D printer club still has a small but dedicated group working on the build of the Huxley machines.

School Dinner Queues: As the menus aren't on Parent Pay the option to pre-pay for meals is unavailable at the moment. CW would like more students to order "grab and go" to reduce the queues. If these could be preordered online then this would help. Lorraine Sykes to meet with CW at PHS to show how this can be set up.

Study Rooms: New Senior Study Space has now opened. Assembly hall is also an option for studying.

Book Reviews for Newspaper:

Kirsten Worsley would like to participate. MH is submitting a review this month and KW can submit one next month. Every time there is a PC meeting a parent will be nominated to do a book report.

Brief review of Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy meeting:

GB reported on the presentation by SBC – it was looking at the different ways your child can be exploited and how to be more aware as parents about what your children are doing, who they are texting etc. It challenged assumptions of who can be targeted. They looked at resources, how best to inform parents and what kind of event parents would come to in order to learn more about the subject.

Update on SIP Priorities:

Developing Young Workforce (DYWF) – local and national businesses are giving opportunities to a wide range of careers. Some students have been selected to start apprenticeships next year. The PC would like to learn more about this and CW suggested the PC organise a special information evening for parents.

S3's are going to get 1 full week of work experience. This would run over 3 weeks in May. The school will be organising some placements, but parents will be encouraged to find work placements for their child. This won't be compulsory for students to participate in.

Poverty Proofing – no update at the moment. PHS is getting £56,000 from the Scottish Government to help in this area.

Personal Support – no update at the moment. Student survey underway and parent survey to be held later in the year.

Tracking and Monitoring Reporting – surveys will be sent to parents and students in due course.

Rector's Update:

Maths – Mrs Sheridan is acting PT. Re-advertising Head of Mathematics - date tbc. Mr Russell is back from paternity leave. Still two positions down. Two supply maths teachers are covering the shortage.

PE staff – short term temporary contract. 8 applicants and the successful applicant will be announced shortly.

Home Economics – sadly Elaine Potts has passed away. Her position has been filled temporarily. PC to send a card to the family.

The outcome of the recent school review showed that the school strengths are: leadership, positive relationships, partnerships working for better outcomes, attainment.

The school needs to improve on: pupil voice, pupils voice in learning. CW is looking to provide more opportunities for staff and better outcomes for the most vulnerable young people.

School Improvement Plan – staff would like Learning and Teaching to be a priority next year along with mental health.

CW went to a conference about mental health issues affecting young people. Young people are identifying that they have mental health issues earlier which is seen as a positive step.

Parent Group Updates:

PTA Update:

The PTA are looking for support for the Spring concert on 22nd March 7pm. Volunteers are needed to help serve refreshments at the Spring Concert. All assistance gratefully received, please contact Lisa Houston peebleshighschoolpta@gmail.com if you can help.

Learning Support Update:

Christmas morning fundraiser event raised just under £2,000. A disco is being organised.

PHS200 Update:

PHS200 account £5720.44 balance – next draw is in March.

A new school website is being worked on. Simon and Glenda have been looking at what other schools are doing. Once they have a skeleton website they will show it to the PC.

Make-up and Uniform Policy:

Parents feel there is peer pressure for students to wear too much make-up and make unsuitable uniform choices. It is felt that having a uniform policy is cheaper and is helping the poverty proofing. During the survey a few years ago make-up was an optional question and most of the parents that answered said there shouldn't be a make-up policy. CW to speak to

pastoral teachers about talking to S1-S3 girls about peer pressure. CW to invite a pastoral teacher to the next PC meeting to speak about this.

Communication:

E-Bulletin - positive feedback but agreed this should be shorter.

Website – a new website is being constructed by PHS200 (see above). The existing website, including the calendar, is not up-to-date. The teacher who updates the calendar can only make changes he is told about.

Recruitment Training Dates:

14th March – Berwickshire High School at 6-8pm

16th May – Galashiels Academy at 6-8pm

Anyone who wants to go, please let MH know.

Parent Councils Chair meeting on 23rd February in Kelso – no one available to attend.

Any Other Business:

Further discussion topics for future meetings:

- DYWF (special evening)
- Pastoral (Make-up and uniform)
- Modern Languages
- Parents Nights (appointment times)
- Homework Policy
- Learning difficulties presentation (Laura organising)
- Clubs.

Meeting finished at 9pm.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 27th March 7.30pm in new Sports Facility