

## PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



**Parent Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 13th September 2016 at 7.00pm**  
**in the meeting room in the new Sports Facility**

### MINUTES

#### **Present:**

Campbell Wilson, Margaret Hogg, Tommy Davidson, Michael Pryor, Laura Robertson, Lisa Houston, Vivienne Leckie, Susan MacMillan, Andrea Feller, Lorraine Sykes, Vanessa Rice, Kate Whalley, Gail Jackson, Glenda Barton and Mirren McLeod.

#### **Welcome:**

Margaret Hogg welcomed everybody, especially the new members. Everyone introduced themselves.

#### **Approve Constitution Amendments:**

There were no objections to the amendments to the constitution.

#### **Rector's Report:**

##### **Staffing:**

Art	Jilly Logan (new qualified teacher) has started and Drew Thomson, retired PT is covering Mrs Tweedie's maternity cover.
Maths	There are interviews being held on Friday. In the interim Gerard Janowski (retired PT from East Lothian) and Jan Gordon (Additional Needs teacher) are covering.
English	Alex Wallis is the maternity replacement for Catherine Travis
Technical	Sanjay Rudra is on contract here until April, Rolf Cameron is on supply until Christmas, they are still advertising the maternity cover (6 month), but have had no interest.
Business Studies	Debbie Shearer from Leith joined the school on the 15 <sup>th</sup> August.
Health and Lifeskills	Elaine Potts is off school (Remove), Wilma Robertson (retired PT) and Caroline Barron are covering a long term absence. Robbie Shirra-Gibb has transferred from JGS.
Modern Languages	Christelle Couharde has started and teaches 3 languages.
Additional Needs	Jan Gordon and Lynn Duncan have started in the Additional Needs Department.

##### **SQA Results:**

CW is very pleased with results.

- S4 results – (% of those who achieved 5 or more N5 qualifications). New model started in 2014 with the new national qualifications. The SBC average this year is 42% and this year PHS achieved 63%.
- S5 results – (% of those who achieved 5 highers by end of S5) 16% is the SBC result and PHS achieved 28%
- S6 results – PHS had 52% of S6's leaving with 5 highers. This is the best results for all of Scottish Borders high schools. SBC average was 34%.
- N4 students who achieved English at N4 – 97% and the virtual comparator school at 92%
- N5 students (literacy) results - 84% passed
- N4 students who achieved Maths at National 4 is well above our virtual comparator school
- N5 results – well above virtual comparator school.

Tariff Points Charts – tariff points are achieved by passing exams.

4<sup>th</sup> year – 220 in the year group - 20% (44) appear in the lowest cohort, majority of 60% are in the middle cohort and most able 4<sup>th</sup> years are in the highest 20%. Overall, we are in line with our virtual comparator schools. Majority of 4<sup>th</sup> years are doing better but lowest 20% are below our virtual comparator and top 20% almost in line with our comparator.

5<sup>th</sup> years – overtaking the virtual comparator schools in every measure.

6<sup>th</sup> years – most able are well above the virtual comparator schools, middle section are above and lowest well above the virtual comparator schools..

#### Attainment vs deprivation

National Attainment Track - decile 1 students achieve 600 tariff points, decile 10 students attain 1000 tariff points. PHS – decile 4 leavers have attained in line with decile 8 students. Majority of students are in decile 8 and are slightly above the national attainment track. Decile 4, 5, 7 and 10 are well above the national attainment track.

#### 33 period week

A barrier to virtual learning is distance from other high schools in the Borders. The 33 period week is a success with students going to borders college. Also the partnership with Queen Margaret University is working well.

#### Tracking and Monitoring

85/220 young people in 4<sup>th</sup> year are on track to achieve well in all 6 subjects. Any students off track in 2 or more subjects get an interview with their pastoral teacher.

Peebles, Hawick and Galashiels are the only high schools that take in all students from their local area because they have additional needs support department.

#### Prefects

This will be decided by a voting system in October. There will be a Senior Student Council once the prefects are chosen. There will be 36 prefects this year (up from 30 last year) and all can sit on the Senior Student Council.

## **Future Agenda Items**

### Poverty Proofing

Michael Pryor is heading this. Michael is looking at this with Andrea Hall and Jeremy Lee. School uniform, computers for home, photocopying, home economics, trips etc are all on their agenda. There is also a staff working group.

### Tracking and Monitoring

This is a new reporting system for this year. Reports have just gone out to S4-S6 students. Justin Noon has offered to come to another Parent Council meeting to talk about this. Parents will get a tracking and monitoring report 4 times a year to show if their child is on track with effort, behaviour and homework. They are given a score 1-3 and a level they are working at ie; National 4, National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher.

We want to look at reward and recognition and how it ties into tracking and monitoring.

### Personal Support

This is new for this year. Students have a personal support period. Each student gets 5 to 6 one to ones with a teacher to talk specifically about their academic path through the school. Over the year we will look at how we make personal support work and what parents think about it, how to improve it. Margaret Hogg is meeting with Donna Moretta next week about this.

### Communication

We are looking for someone in the parent body who can help communicate to parents with regular updates on what is happening. (Lisa Houston has volunteered to do this - see below)

### Show my Homework.

Clarification of policy required

### Developing Scotlands Young Workforce

Careers fair – what opportunities are out there for students?

### Subject Choices

Some children find it difficult to choose six subjects when they want to do the sciences. Also limited choice when dropping to five Highers. There is also the problem with some English Universities not accepting the amount of N5s that students do compared to the English equivalent.

Some feel it is too difficult for S1's when choosing sciences and also students being able to drop two sciences and two social sciences. This may be too young for students to be making that decision.

This could be discussed through a forum with Campbell talking to parents who are interested in this topic.

### Languages

Students doing well in Language exams, but they are unable to speak the language. PC could look at language clubs for students.

### West Linton Primary School Young Engineers and Science Club

West Linton Primary School started this club last year and they won a National competition. Could there be a semi-formal link with the technology club operating through a local youth group be linked with PHS? CW agreed that this could happen. GJ to contact school.

### Dinner Queues and Lateness of Lunchtime

Length of time to get served is still a problem. Is there any way to make it better? The school struggles with feeding all the students, especially on a wet day. Also some parents think lunchtime is too late. There is a need for more kiosks for students to pre-order grab and go lunches.

### Council Chairpersons Meetings

Parents are keen to attend. Could they use video conferencing or even telephone conferencing. MH to find out dates of future meetings.

### S5 free period space

There are very few places for S5's with free periods on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to go to study. The LRC isn't always open or available. The atrium is too noisy. There is a classroom but has no window

### Spider Phones

Tommy to look into possibly purchasing a spider phone to allow dial-up into future PC meetings for those who cannot attend.

### Uniform

Review/clarification of policy?

### In-holiday Homework

Assignments set over holidays.

All these potential agenda items will be looked at by Margaret Hogg and Campbell Wilson. They will sort them into items that the Parent Council can look at and items that Campbell Wilson can look at.

### **Community Vacant Positions**

Vice-Chairperson – Tommy Davidson volunteered to fill this position.

PTA Treasurer – Lorraine Sykes volunteered to take over this position from Mirren McLeod.

PTA Fundraiser – if anyone knows of anyone interested – please let us know

PHS200 Club Promoter – if anyone knows of anyone interested – please let us know (Tommy Davidson has since volunteered to do this)

Communications Officer – Lisa Houston volunteered to fill this position.

Meeting finished at 9.30pm

Next meeting is Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016