

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, 7th September 2017 at 7.00pm
In LRC

MINUTES

Present:

Paul Fagan, Margaret Hogg, Tommy Davidson, Katrina Culshaw, Kirsten Worsley, Sophie Hamilton, Susan Bell, Eric Nightingale, Vivienne Leckie, Vanessa Rice, Sam Swinton, Jeremy Lee, Justin Noon, Eleanor Fairbairn, Lorraine Sykes, Moya Loughery, Michael Pryor, Glenda Barton, Lorna Boak, Sarah Keen

Apologies:

Kate Whalley, Gail Jackson, Lisa Houston and Mirren McLeod

Welcome by Margaret Hogg. Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes accepted (Sept 2017, AGM & Developing Young Workforce)

Matters Arising

1. Appointment of post holders

Joint Vice Chair Tommy Davidson to be joined by Glenda Barton

It was suggested they draw up a list of their roles for reference and any future recruitment.

PHS200 club

Kirsten Worsley and Vivienne Leckie to take this over from Laura (who has now left the PC)

To meet and discuss ways to promote and grow the club. It was agreed that the new as well as come up with a new name to reflect its fundraising aims.

Treasurer

Lorraine Sykes

PHS200

Glenda Barton to be joined by Eric Nightingale

Eric will assist promoting the club & expanding the list of contacts.

2. Flexible pathways

No update available yet.

3. School dinners

Lorraine reported the staff are doing a tremendous job to feed the large number of pupils and staff healthy food in the time available. Extra pressure on bad weather days.

Grab and Go stands queues are longer at start of term as the 1st years not confident with how it operates. It is hoped extra help could be given by senior pupils, more training and publishing the menu options which change daily, but tend to repeat each week, as well as encouraging ordering in advance (before school, morning break but also after lunch for the next day).

Perhaps there is a need to encourage more healthy snack options for morning break as it is a long time until lunch for pupils travelling in.

It was decided to create a school dinner sub group to come up with ideas on how to help reduce dinner queues and ordering queues and Kirsten & Lorna offered to join Lorraine.

Tommy will bring up the issue of the late lunchtime at the next SBC PC Chairs meeting.

4. New website

Glenda & Lisa have worked on this and Glenda would like to extend their thanks to Simon Fraser who has undertaken to post the daily bulletin onto the school website. This new section on the website needs to be advertised to both pupils and parents.

It was also suggested the school should consider a new external sign. Vivienne suggested this may be something that parents who have contacts in the printing business could help with.

5. Pupil equity sub group

Jeremy reported that following on from the AGM where the criteria was set out to help reduce cost for all pupils, as well as, with the P7 transition to S1 that much has been implemented and the goals had been achieved. There are free ties and lockers in the 1st year for vulnerable families, help with curriculum costs, school uniform, school trips and subsidy with transport cost for 1st year sports trips etc. In the previous year £1000s remained unclaimed but this year it was in the hundreds.

Discussion followed about the need for deposits on text books and how to charge this. The school can lose thousands in missing text books and it was felt this needs to be communicated more directly alongside requests for deposits. Can this charge be shown as pending on the parent pay scheme and then removed when the book is returned? The pros and cons were discussed but the issue was not fully resolved. The PEF group to consider how to best solve this issue.

6. Homework policy

It was decided a new subgroup was needed and volunteers to join Justin were received from Vivienne, Lorraine, Glenda and Eleanor.

Some parents would like to have a paper homework diary and not to rely on phones to record homework.

One of the big successes has been that each child now has their own unique 'show my homework' pages for their subjects. There are plans to include the dates of assessments for pupils in years 4/5/6. Show my homework can be accessed by parents with several email addresses but it may require more explanation as to how it works. The school needs to raise awareness amongst parents as currently only about 11% have looked at it.

7. Tesco bags of help

Michael reported that the High School's bid had been granted and we have been awarded £2,000 for improvements to the acoustics in the dining room. Glenda has started to look for

quotes for curtains and if these can be made in the name of the school it can be VAT exempt. Paul pointed out that any change needs discussed with Catering staff as it's their area.

Parent ideas/concerns

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| - End of Term Achievement Report | Would wish greater recognition for effort |
| | A request for an explanation of how the merit system works and how the ambassadors are chosen. |
| | Sam talked about the 7 Behaviours and the drama league for each class rather than the individual pupil. |
| - Attainment Gap | |
| - Climate change programme | Gardening (Kirsten & Katrina to meet) |
| - Outdoors use | Greater advantage of in good weather |
| - Language rooms | Too cold |
| - Duke of Edinburgh | Revisit |
| - Prefect Selection | Selection process has changed from previous year-
See Appendix |
| - New school/improved building | Dec meeting, possible phased improvement plan |

Acting Rector's Update

Attainment

Number of pupils achieving 5 N 4 awards or better down by 6.87%. Now at 152 pupils or 70% of the year. Higher than Borders average of 68.18%

Number of pupils achieving 5 N5 awards or better also significantly down by 15.43%. Now 103 pupils or 47.47% of the year. Significantly higher than Borders average of 39.98%

S5 results are much more encouraging

Number of pupils achieving 3 Highers or more up by 2.08%. Now 126 pupils or 57.01% of the year. Very significantly higher than borders average of 38.2%

Number of pupils achieving 5 Highers or more up by 5.78%. Now 74 pupils or 34% of the year. Nearly double the SBC average of 18%. This once defining measure of schools is the highest in PHS history, with 27 pupils achieving 5 A's.

S6 results are encouraging

These results are used to populate our dashboard measures on insight. These are the statistics that are available to everyone. There are 7 ways in which attainment is measured in each year group from the number of qualifications at National 3 level to Advanced Higher. PHS improved in 5 out of the 7 areas. Most notably:

Number of pupils achieving 5 or more N4 awards by the time they leave school increased by 5.25%. Now 197 pupils or 92.49% of leavers. Higher than borders average of 84.12%

Number of pupils achieving 5 or more N5 awards by the time they leave school increased by 4.46%. Now 166 pupils or 77.93% of leavers. Very significantly above SBC average of 63.5%.

One area of disappointment is the drop in the number of pupils achieving 5 Highers or more when they leave school. This decreased by 4.58%. Now 100 students or 47% of leavers. This is still very significantly above the SBC average of 33.5%.

In summation – Year of positives but with definite work to do in S4 and into S5. Two pupils: Olivia Brunton and Treeve Wilcox achieved 5 A's in Higher all at band 1 . Both pupils will share the Dux award. Treeve has also brought honour to the school by being the highest achieving pupil in Scotland in both Higher Human Biology and Higher Physics. Her achievement will be recognised at a national event "Science and the Parliament" attended by 350 of the great and the good.

(Glenda commented that perhaps more publicity should have been given to the fantastic achievement last year when the school become one of the top 20 performing state schools in Scotland.)

School Improvement Plan

We see this year's school improvement priorities (Developing the Young Workforce, Learning and Teaching, Building Resilience) as key to closing the attainment gap in our school.

Teaching and Learning

Justin Noon reported that following on from a survey of pupils, parents and teachers the number one priority was identified as teaching. The key focus for the SIP this year is going to be the staff and supporting their own **professional development enquiry**. It was emphasised that the key learning impact on pupils comes from their teachers. It is vital that we support staff to deliver high quality learning and teaching and develop their leadership capacity. This may be through professional reading as well as dialogue with colleagues. They will also be asked to show any evidence of improvements. Secondly, we aim to support the **learning conversations** that take place daily between teachers and pupils. It is imperative that we can capture and develop a system where these conversations (along with the tracking & monitoring) can be shared across the school community (teachers and parents) to best support our learners.

DYW (developing young workforce)

- Improving the work placement programme in S3.
- Interview and CV preparation for S3.
- Developing a suite of DYW options for pupils in the Senior Phase.
- Further engagement with the Careers Education Standard.

Building resilience

- All staff trained in the growing confidence programme. This will form a package of support which will help to strengthen attachment, resilience and mental well-being in our young people.
- PEF (pupil equity fund)
£56,400 pa has been given for the next 3 years to close the attainment gap. The school is looking into developing a job specification. A key element which needs to be included is the measurement of any success. There will be more information to follow.

Staffing Update

- Congratulations to Lynn Duncan now Bertram and Jillian Ramage now Whitehead who both married in the summer
- We sadly said goodbye to Sam McHenry (Maths), Mark Freeman (Maths) and Wendy Cruickshank (PT Pastoral) in June
- Loraine Boyd has been appointed as Business Manager
- Elaine Anderson (Tech) and Alison Russell (Maths) have both returned from maternity leave
- Gillian Gess, PT Pastoral, who is coming from Beeslack starts tomorrow.
- Celia Wilson, Teacher of Technical is coming from Linlithgow Academy.
- Welcome to Sam Swinton, Drama Probationer
- New appointment of Teacher of Maths, Neil Hamilton who will be starting on 11th September from Hawick High School
- Backdated Welcome to Fiona Johnston, Teacher of Maths who joined from Selkirk High School in June
- Andy Wishart and Gerard Jankowski covering classes in Maths, Ian Sinclair covering PE and Rolf Cameron covering Technical
- Appointment of ANA - Carole Day

Existing Vacancies

2 FTE in maths
1 FTE (Temp) DHT
PE (0.4FTE) Temp

Any Other Business

Thanks for everyone's attendance, and special thanks to S1 parents whom we hope to see again

The PC wish to record their best wishes to Campbell and hope for a full and speedy recovery.

Next meeting is 24th October, 7PM in the new Sports Facility

Meeting finished at 9pm

Appendix 1

2017/2018 Prefect and SSC Process

To be outlined to students and staff at induction assembly.

1. All S6 students are on the ballot for student and staff vote.
2. Weighting of votes x2 for staff, highest number of votes gains prefect nomination. (behaviour records checked)
3. 10 Faculty prefects are nominated
4. Prefects are asked if they would like to take up position.
5. Applications for Senior Council are offered to all Prefects and House captains (separate process of application and interview with DHT and PT Pastoral).
6. Interview slots are allocated for SSC. Panel is HT, PT Pastoral and previous Head Boy and Head Girl.
7. 14 Prefects/House captains are asked to form the SSC. All SSC are invited to apply for Head Boy and Head Girl.
8. Hustings in front of S6 followed by vote.
9. Head Boy, Head Girl, Depute Head Boy and Depute Head Girl announced.
10. Committees formed at 2nd induction

Head team will not be on any of these committees but will rotate around to provide support as needed.

- Social Events – Christmas dances, Burns supper, Halloween Dances, Graduation ceremony.
- S6 Legacy – Yearbook, Hoodies, S6 Quiz
- PHS Ethos – Duty rotations, Charity events, S6 common room, Ambassador leadership.
- Student Voice – All year group opinions/task forces.
- School Service – Leadership and support for School Service, The Store Crew, MVP, Not Alone