

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 24th October at 7pm
in the meeting room in the New Sports Facility

MINUTES

Present

Paul Fagan, Margaret Hogg, Ross McLaren, Muriel Foreman, Lorraine Sykes, Eleanor Fairbairn, Vanessa Rice, Kirstin Worsley, Vivienne Leckie, Eric Nightingale, Justin Noon, Lisa Houston, Glenda Barton, Tommy Davidson, Sarah Keen, Lorna Boak, Susan Bell, Elizabeth Nguyen, Joe Giegerich.

Apologies

Michael Prior, Kate Whalley, Katrina Culshaw, Sophie Hamilton

Welcome to the newly appointed Deputy Head Ross McLaren, and also to the Head Girl, Elizabeth Nguyen and Head Boy, Joe Giegerich

1. Matters arising:

Climate Change Programme

You Can Cook have approached the school to work with all the learners at Peebles High School, looking at sustainability and grow your own programmes. A survey went out to parents to assess interest.

You Can Cook have previously worked successfully in both Innerleithen and Walkerburn.

Prefect Selection

Following concerns raised by parents, discussion touched on the number of prefects, the ratio of girls to boys, the spreadsheet used, selection process and the need for pupils to have a positive experience for their UCAS personnel statements. It was mentioned that some schools offer prefect roles to all 6th year pupils which they can then Keep, Refuse or Lose.

There has been some difficulty in finding enough duties for a larger number of prefects in the past. Perhaps we could look at how we define a prefect.

It was suggested we re-visit next March before the next selection process.

Duke of Edinburgh

Requests to look into the communication and running of the DofE at Peebles High School have been brought to the attention of Margaret. An information meeting has been planned for later this month which will address some of these issues. It is hoped that greater parental support could help with the running of it and it was suggested that perhaps PHS200 could help with this in some way.

The DofE also requires assistance from the Council to help fund and find the Mountain Leaders needed for the overnight challenges.

External Sign

An appeal for help that was included within the e-bulletin has not generated any offers of help from parents. There is however a department within the Council that could prepare the sign, but the cost would have to be met from the school funds. It was hoped that direct contact with families in the printing industry could perhaps provide at least a comparison quote to that which the Council produces.

2. Subgroup Updates:

Flexible Pathways

Margaret Hogg to meet with Paul Fagan.

School Dinners

Excellent progress with new queuing system introduced, better signage, a mention in the daily bulletin plus an additional ordering system about to be installed.

Homework

No update yet. Hope to include Ross McLaren in the sub group.

Pupil Poverty Proofing

No update. Need to check with Jeremy Lee if more work is required.

3. Rector's Update

Results update

The Post Results service was used for approximately 40 students and resulted in 27.2% having a positive improvement. This would imply that 1 in 4 were wrongly marked and this feedback has been shared with the Council as not all schools within Scotland will ask for a re-mark of papers.

The new statistics for the results will be finalised in February.

'Bring your own devices to school' Policy

SBC is introducing a new line for internet access into all 9 of its secondary schools. It will initially be available to the Senior Management and years S4-6 for all devices. It will roll-out across all years at some future date.

An email will be issued to parents allowing them to opt out. The school will not be taking responsibility for damages to these devices. There will be no facility to charge these devices at school.

It may highlight an area for the Pupil Poverty Proofing sub-group to consider.

Parents Evening Booking System

This went live with the 3rd years and was well received.

A group call was given before the email went out. Once it was established that attendance looked slightly down Pastoral care teachers made calls to parents to discover that emails had either gone into their spam folders or parents had not had a chance to complete the on-line booking. The system allows parents to send in questions in advance to teachers.

It will be going live with years 4/5/6 in November.

Buckingham Palace Educational Forum

Paul Fagan was invited to Buckingham Palace along with 400 other Head Teachers and Captains of Industry to meet the Duke of York. It was mainly to espouse the benefits of outdoor learning through Outward Bound courses and the success of the DofE schemes. It highlighted that success should not just be measured by academic attainment.

Staffing

Ross McLaren appointed Deputy Head.

Terry McColm from Modern Studies appointed to Dunrig Pastoral Team.

Maria Gomess to join History Department as Lee Thornberry will be going on maternity leave.

The Maths Department is interviewing next week for one vacancy.

4. Parent Groups Updates

PTA	No update
PHSLS	Vanessa reported a successful bag-packing day at Sainsburys which raised £550 and highlighted their profile within the community.
200club	Now to be called The PHS Lottery Kirsten and Vivienne would like a new logo before distributing new paper forms home with all pupils. A competition could be arranged for designing the logo. A new link to sign up will then be added to the website.

PHS200 Successfully attracted 90 volunteers to appear at forthcoming Careers Fair. Still struggle for speakers in the Expressive Arts, Modern Studies & History.
Staggered start has been suggested with senior pupils attending later in the evening. Good opportunity for help with personal statements. Going forward, would like to make it more accessible for pupils with additional needs, but suggested they attend between 8-9pm this year as it is generally quieter then.

5. Tesco 'Bags of Help' Update

Paul Fagan to pass on quote to council Clerk of Works for approval. Need to ensure the curtains will be fire retardant.

6. Group communication

- Issues still exist where not all contact details supplied to the school are being included in the group emails sent from the school.
- It has been requested that the e-bulletin is sent in the main body of the email and not as an attachment.
- Also asked why the school can't keep and use 2 email addresses.
- Some issues experienced with the S3 Parents evening online booking.

It is suggested that Ross McLaren could help with the digital communication.

7. Bids Allocation

The following allocation of funds to the departments within the school was agreed:

Business	Smartboard for room M21	1,000
English & RMPS	Video cameras, microphones, memory cards	1,200
Additional Needs	iPad apps	200
CDT	1 A3 Visualiser	429
Modern Languages	S2 studio 2 French Textbooks	1,844
Drama	Projector & Ceiling mount	130
Maths	4 Whiteboards	1,216
Music	Projector screen & guitar strings	95
Health & Wellbeing	Pattern Blocks	135
Art	1 camera & associated kit	356
Science	S2/3 and N4 text books Biology, Physics & Chemistry	643
Biology/Chemistry	1 Smartboard	1,000
Social Subjects	Higher Sociology & Modern Studies text books	900
Whole School	LGBT books for library	300
	10 Laptops for shared use	3,000
	Opportunities pot	1,000
TOTAL		£ 13,448

Bids (totalling over £50,000) were received from the majority of departments within the school and departments were asked to specify their top priority. Advice was sought from the SMT and consideration was also given to the amounts allocated last time.

Laptops had already been identified as one of the priorities for fund-raising this coming year, it was therefore agreed only 10 would be purchased now for use by the whole school. It is still too early to say whether the 'Bring Your Own Device to school' policy will have an impact of the quantity needed.

The PTA will be contributing £5,250 from its bank account with £8,200 coming from the 200 Club (now called PHS Lottery). Leaving a balance of just under £1,000 in each account.

A request from the Equestrian Team for funding was not upheld but, in line with support given to other clubs at the school, Paul has agreed that their affiliation fees will be met by the school.

It is hoped that a further allocation of funds may be possible later in the academic year, with any requests collected and reviewed separately by a subgroup (including Paul and Margaret) and then put before the PC in a proposal for acceptance. It is unfortunately not possible to grant all requests, but hopefully a greater uptake in the PHS Lottery will allow for the funding of other worthwhile resources.

8. AOB

Tommy reminded the Parent Council that it may be possible to apply to Scottish Borders for a share of the recently launched £500,000 funding pot for communities. Tweeddale has been awarded £100,000 of the total available. All bids must be received by Friday 1st December. Bids will then be reviewed by Locality Committees and if approved will be put to a public vote.

Tommy will see if it's possible for the Parent Council to apply and, if so, suggests we put in an application for £10,000.

Next meeting Wednesday 6th December, 7pm in the new Sports Facility
(Shona Haslam will be attending to discuss School Building & Improvements)