

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



Parent Council Meeting
Monday 5th March at 7pm
in the meeting room in the New Sports Facility

MINUTES

Present

Paul Fagan, Margaret Hogg, Glenda Barton, Eric Nightingale, Lisa Houston, Lorraine Sykes, Vivienne Leckie, Susan Bell

Apologies

Kirsten Worsley, Muriel Foreman, Michael Pryor, Sara Keen, Vanessa Rice

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Approval of minutes** Given
2. **Matters arising:**

Growing in Confidence

The first of a series of four workshops begins this Wednesday, The TeenaMind.

LGBT

Carried forward, Paul and Margaret to prepare accompanying letter when distributing document.

Mental Health

Hope to have a better update following on from workshops being held in March.

Departmental Bids

The cost of PCs is very high due to the CGI contract that SBC is locked into. £400 per PC plus £250 lifetime warranty.

School looking into buying & donating devices through Pupil Equity Fund. Ross McLaren identified possible devices from John Lewis at £175. However, such devices would be unable to connect to the school server. They can connect via the cloud and will be able to access Glow. May be worth holding meeting with Ross to decide on a way forward.

Bring Your own device to School

Issues have been identified where pupils using windows later than the '93 version can't connect. Mac devices have no problems. School is waiting to see if SBC can

come up with a fix.

Locality Funding Bid Update

No update yet. Margaret & Lisa to ask if Sara would be willing to help put together a bid when the time comes. Still open to suggestions beyond initial ideas of mini bus and creating a shop.

Group Communication

Any comments, feedback to Ross.

Duke of Edinburgh

We would like to carry out a satisfaction survey following the completion of this year activities. Would hopefully be appreciated and valued by the teachers involved.

External Sign

This has been designed and currently on order with SBC.

Acoustic Curtains

Mike Ross from Eddleston hopes to come in and discuss other options than the original curtain ideas. Maybe other solutions are available to us.

3. New School Bid Update

See below.

4. Subgroup Updates:

Flexible Pathways

Nothing to report at this time.

School Dinners

A new machine is still needing installed. Awaiting CGI to do so.

Homework

Paul has been emphasising to the staff that Show My Homework must be the single point for the communication of homework going forward. Was used effectively during recent snow days, however teachers must be careful to avoid setting more work than could realistically be done in a school period.

5. Rector's Update

School Inspection Review

SBC are conducting a review this week will involves meetings with Senior Management, Individual staff, Focus groups and Parents. Glenda will try and find some parents to attend the Parent Meeting.

Staff

Joanne Thompson joining on part time basis for RMPS

Helen Hayes appointed as Additional Needs Assistant.

Interviewing Wednesday for the English vacancy. (two part-time posts)

6. Parent Groups Updates

PHS Lottery Still hope to advertise and collect more forms.

PH200 & PTA eBulletin hopefully go out shortly with any updates

26th March Open Meeting School Building Investment

This will run from	11am through to 2:15pm	Pupils & Staff
	2:15 – 8pm	Open to all

Invites have gone out to all parents of High School pupils as well as parents of all feeder Primary Schools.

It will take place in the Assembly Hall where stations will be set up by SBC, PHS Pupils and the Parent Council.

Questionnaires from SBC will be distributed and details of a link to an online survey will be provided. This will run from 6th March until 16th April.

SBC should set out the Facts & Figures relating to the current position. They will also outline the Process, Time scales and the Options Appraisal Process.

Reports will be drafted by SBC Executive Committee for each of the 4 High Schools and they will go to Committee for decisions on 1st May

Parent Council Vision

Our aim is to be an OUTSTANDING school. The PC stand will have posters setting out this vision, what it means to be OUTSTANDING and what it does not mean. There will be a slideshow and leaflets to hand out.

We should aim to be amongst the top in Scotland, have outstanding leadership, hope to attract the best teachers (by showing we value them). Provide for our students (looking after their mental, physical, additional needs) and prepare students for their future careers.

We currently have a truly beautiful location with terrific space & light to work within. We have fantastic sports facilities, the John Muir home and the Millennium wing.

We would however like to see attention given to the Maths Tower and to develop a STEM

wing which could house the Maths and Science subjects. Hopefully links to Borders College and Heriot Watt could be developed.

We should not accept anything which is not better than what we already have now. Our aim must be to hold onto the facilities which attract the best staff and which our teachers value.

Senior Management Vision

Outstanding Education is the key theme behind a video which is being prepared to show at the event. The Student Council has been involved in preparing this and will focus initially on the key strengths of the current building. It will also cover the following topics:-

- Safety & Security
- Accessibility
- Technology & flexibility (STEM)
- Space (Multi-purpose spaces)
- Natural (outdoor learning) spaces

Behind all of this, it is essential there is the correct technological infrastructure. It must support effective communication and provide an outstanding place to learn and grow.

To help improve the quality of teaching we aim to provide teachers with an outstanding place to work and rest. They must have their own space to be creative. We should aim to provide a place which is supportive, social and focuses on their health and wellbeing. To attract the best, could we aim to assist with affordable living provisions? Creche facilities?

For our pupils, can we help with their work experience and provide opportunities for those with additional needs to practice skills to assist with independent living?

Volunteers to join the parent council stand are asked to provide Margaret with details of when on the 26th March they may be able to help. We are looking for 9 people to provide one hour each to assist Margaret, Glenda and Michael who will be there throughout the day.

Next scheduled meeting is 7pm Thursday 17th May in the New Sports Facility