

Parent Council Meeting

Location: Earlston High School

Date: 14th June 2018

Time Commenced: 7:01pm

Time Adjourned: 8:34pm

Attendees	Apologies
Allan Dawson	Kate Richards
Annie Janes	Stuart Macpherson
Fiona Donaldson	Laura Anderson
Shaad Mahdi	Kate Farnsworth
Alice Macbrayne	Pooee Pitman
Christie Rout	Ruth Magowan
Callum Weston	Fay Lockie
Ninian Grant	Karen Wexelstein
Susan Currie	Anne Duguid
Lynne Morgan	Damian Hayes
	Kath Lothian (although subsequently made the second half of the meeting)

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Social subjects have the highest entries than any other subject last year
- Ensure that learning intentions and success criteria are conveyed to students in every lesson
- Allow the students to actively engage and tick their work as they do it
- Teachers to be supportive in learning- allow students to see a clear and strong structure of their work
- For teachers and pupils to know what their successes look like
- Learning interventions for when students are not attending their subjects
- Allow students to see what students are doing and when they are doing it
- Provide help sheets that are clear to understand
- Give students visual aids to allow them to track their progress and work- this has been given good feedback from both pupils and staff

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Head team application does not feel like anything
- Some people may have not got through when voted for because they may have a small friend group or are less popular
- There needs to be a balance between the SMT and the rest of the school when choosing the head team
- Presentation before voting
- Not gender specific roles e.g. 3 girls and 1 boy not just 2 and 2
- Size of year groups is growing possibly 6 for head team
- An application without a name, making the position decided from values rather than the person
- Give more information before the year group votes
- 100% of young people at EHS get a leadership role/experience
- Recognition for young people at schools
- More ambassadors
- S6 work as one rather than individual groups
- I would like to thank the staff at EHS for the pilot of Raising Teens with Confidence - I know all those who participated learnt a lot and shared great experiences and wish the staff tutors every success sharing this concept more widely.

I attended the Scottish Borders Parent Council Chairs meeting last week. Ian Aitchison updated us on the national parent forum Scotland (www.npfs.org.uk) for which he is the Borders rep. The NPF provide useful "in a nutshell" guides as well as work with head teachers, parents and pupils, regional groups and the workforce to develop edification. He can be contacted on Scottish.borders@npfs.org.uk if anyone has any queries. There were then presentations around exclusions, reducing the poverty related attainment gap and EHS were mentioned in their novel approach to the Pupil Equity fund to combine resources as a cluster of the local feeder school and EHS, to provide a more comprehensive approach. There was a health and wellbeing update as well as one on the Scottish national standards assessment which Justin may elaborate on. It was also noted that there is a new byelaw around employment of young people under 16 - the parents and the employer are now required to complete a permit application which will take into account hours of working and type before approval.

With regard to fundraising I am delighted to say we have booked the Colour Fashion Show for the 20/9/18 and have been in touch with the Doddie Weir foundation to fundraise jointly for that and the parent council from the event. We will discuss the questions asked by the Colours group regarding the show and probably need to arrange a save the date please Justin for the school community via call text, email and any other route. I wonder Justin if you could let Doddie know of the event. We

then need to get people enlisted to attend prior to an early PC meeting next term to get a further push on sales etc.

The minibus application has stalled because I have been rather busy - if anyone would like to help us please let us know. We will try to collate all the information and send it in and have already had one enquiry from another school re its use and they have offered to come onto the community transport group so that will be fab. I will try and find the details of the person who had experience of running such a group.

With this being the last meeting before the holidays, can i thank everyone for their help and I look forward to seeing you all reenergised and raring to go in the new term.

Action(s) to be taken

- Possibly change choosing process for next year
- Look at the application for head team
- More leadership roles and opportunities than previous years
- Human utopia 'champions'
- 20th September colour fashion show
 - Volunteers to help Annabelle

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Fundraising not as good as previously
- Ricky the janitor is looking for £400-£500 to buy new instruments “terrific cause”
- Parents who have more than one child at the school do not need to attend the p7 parents evening again
- Face-to-face events
- Dates/times are not well conveyed/communicated
- Parent council app and website not as easily accessible
- Can't access website/too old
- Improve communication
- Both parents get group call
- A secondary list of parents who will receive group call
- Group call is useful
- A controlled communications committee where S6s can upload information about the school etc.
 - Creation of technology ambassadors
- Newsletter is 'old' news
- Human utopia was 'best thing'
- Multiple school social media accounts
 - Can be confusing
 - 1 social media page that is more representative
- It is currently unclear which page is for which information
- Young people involved- create leadership opportunities
- Parents are not looking at parent council board in school
 - Board for clear acknowledgments of the parent council
- There is not much news of the parent council within school
- Pupil and parent council to work together

Action(s) to be taken

- Saturday 1st September Mr Foggin open morning for everyone- will help support fund for the parent council 10-1 o'clock
- £5/ticket on the 20th September colours fundraiser for parent's council
- Volunteers to create a stand at Mr Foggin's fundraiser
- Newsletter to ask for donations of instruments for Ricky
- App needing updated
- Justin to find out and to contact SEEMIS about communication and group calls
- Active changes in social media
- Head team to organise parent council board within school
- The board should be obvious for parents but not intruding into the school

- Encourage parents to join the parent council
- Organise Parent council notice board
 - The board to include information that does not need to be changed as regularly e.g. contact information, chair of the committee etc.
- Keep and use location of current Parent council notice board

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- It is a great loss to lose librarian
- Some duties of librarian will be pushed to office staff
- Duties of librarian cannot be up held by pupils when they are focusing on their exams
- The library is a big part of the school
- No qualification gained from taking the job of the librarian
- No help is given to the users of the library as they are not experienced

Action(s) to be taken

- There is a petition to sign which will help put a stop to this process
- Parent council(s) are urged to write to local councillor about pupils running the library

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Last years' S6, last Tuesday, Joe Sutherland from the Carfraemill Earlston were 'horrific'
 - This was found to not be an organised school event and out with the schools' control/jurisdiction
- Advise caution to parents when supervising teens drinking
- How to dissuade these kinds of events
- Leavers evening is good
- Proms can be disastrous
- Leavers evening is nice and enough

Action(s) to be taken

- More thought to be put in when organising these events **if** they are organised
- The school to ask more information about out with school events e.g. names of parent supervisors
 - This is to maintain the values and image of the school
 - The head team is to also help with the control of similar events