

# Parent Council Meeting

**Location:** Earlston High School

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:04pm

**Time Adjourned:** 8:18pm

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Gordon Craig	Gill Wilkinson
Annie Jones	Laura Anderson
Jacqui Miller	Dean Sewell
Ninian Grant- Head Team	Robert Millar
Judith Bunton	Callum Weston- Head Team
Pooee Pitman	Alice Macbrayne- Head Team
Lynne Morgan Hastie	Susan Currie
Christie Rout- Head Team	Siobhan Dawson
Kate Farnsworth	Fiona Donaldson
Shaad Mehdi	Anne Duguid
Fay Lockie	Kate Dunmore (Richards)
Heather Thores	Fiona Johnson
Ruth Magowan	Stuart Macpherson
Kath Lothian	
Justin Sinclair	
Annabel Howell	
Allan Dawson	
Damian Hayes	
Karen Wexelstein	

### **Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- We are continuously trying to improve as a school
- PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) kids are the focus
- EHS is a top three finalist in the Quality Improvement Awards- Highlights a positive impact on large scale
- As a school we use evidence to highlight what is and what is not working
  - We focus on what has the biggest impact
  - We discard any desirable things that have little impact
- We aim to work as one unit with all cluster heads
- Another aim is to celebrate work which is not seen- Celebrate in more ways!
- The more we can work together the more we can have an impact on young people
- Quality Improvement Awards have worked so well we will take it into year two
- As a school we focus on wellbeing of students
- The communication between parents and school is not yet fully effective
  - Is Twitter the right way?
  - Our aim is to attract staff to want to work here
  - Could the school do press releases
  - Parents would have to follow the school on Twitter to see posts
  - SEEMIS group call is a national problem
  - The school has a manual back-up plan for contacting parents who are split
  - Lithuanians are coming to Earlston High School tomorrow
- Focus on respect at assemblies
  - This theme will continue throughout the year until there is 100% of respect in the school
  - Some pupils are not showing respect for others and they need to know that words can hurt, and it is not always 'Just banter'
- Transportation problems
  - Parents and carers should contact Passenger Transport directly
  - Lateness caused by busses are impacting attendance period 1

### **Action(s) to be taken**

- Invite Passenger Transport to the next Parent council and/or Head team meeting(s)
- Send out attainment slides from previous meeting, held on 29-08-2018

### **Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- The open day
  - Parent council swap shop
    - Worked well- needed more uniform to swap
    - We were selling study guides as well
    - Should have a swap shop at the end of the year
    - Organising the swap shop once a term would be a great idea
    - Current study guides are only valid for National four and fives
    - There needs to be some tweaks to the study guides for them to be valid for Highers
    - We can send away, out-of-date guides to get money back, to see if we can raise any money
- The account holds; £6,400

### **Action(s) to be taken**

- Recycle/collect uniforms and study guides
- Ask parent to bring uniforms to parents' evenings
  - 27<sup>th</sup> September- P7
  - 7<sup>th</sup> November- S3

**Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- Expected to be a really good evening
- We have reached one hundred tickets
- There is a local bridal company donating a wedding dress for auction on the night
- There was not enough information communicated on the poster
- We have fourteen raffle gifts
- Will the lighting follow the models?
- Use existing lighting
- Could we do refreshments and charge for them?
- Capacity is 300 people
- Will we want nibbles?
- The show will last a total of 1 hour

**Action(s) to be taken**

- Advertise on Facebook that tickets are available to purchase on the night
- We need to sell raffle tickets
- We need to organise lighting, Justin guarantees that we will have something
- Janitors well need to put out chairs, seating and catwalk
- A float needs to be arranged
- Head team to ask S5 lighting and Mr Thompson about lighting
- Encourage young ambassadors to get involved
- Organise access to the changing rooms to try on bought clothing
- Internet access will be needed for card machines
- To ask Tanzania volunteers if they want to sell popcorn and ice cream at the show

**Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- We have exhausted the opportunity to have a mini bus for SBC staff to drive, this included a Cooks' van
- Can we go ahead with a volunteer driver to take pupils and staff even though the council have not yet come back with a reply
- Could a volunteer driver be available on request from the school?
- We are beyond the point of an insurance issue, it is now a liability issue
- Could we add a section to the EV2 form which asks if the parent allows their child to be driven to the event by a volunteer driver?
- We cannot gift the mini bus to the school, and we cannot manage the mini bus for just the community and not the school
- Could an SBC staff member volunteer to drive as a volunteer and not as a member of SBC staff?
- The specific mini bus is a Mini-Bus light, this means that anyone with a licence after 1998 can automatically drive it
  - There are some online tests
- The parent council could most likely employ a driver

**Action(s) to be taken**

- Decision to be made before next meeting, via e-mail

**Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- This education is about how we interact with social media
- An evening that parents could attend to learn about social media

**Action(s) to be taken**

- Justin to invite PC Ballantyne to come to the next PC meeting

### **Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- Burns night
  - Would very much like a ceilidh
  - Planning was left too late last year
  - SBC staff to cater
  - Thursdays are difficult days
- Before the holidays organise the skills afternoon again, it was really good
- Poverty Proofing
  - Completely overhaul S2 excursions week
  - Want to look at this for next year
    - Some parent cannot afford to pay for excursions and we do not want to put that burden on parents
    - What is the purpose of the trips?
      - Equity for students
      - Discuss with cluster heads

### **Action(s) to be taken**

- Start organising Burns night now
- Ask Mr Haywood to organise something for the dance
- Start advertising Burns night on 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Sell tickets for Burns night at or after the Christmas dance
- Prepare a sales pitch for the ceilidh
- Burns Supper to be added to next meetings' agenda
- Talk to the year group and see what they would like
- Meet with Miss MacDonald to alter times of Rugby
- Add poverty proofing- S2 excursions to following meetings' agenda

**Ideas- thoughts -main points**

- Moved dates
  - 15<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> November
  - 10<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> January
  - 7<sup>th</sup> February- remain the same
  - 7<sup>th</sup> March- remain the same
  - 15<sup>th</sup> May- remain the same

**Action(s) to be taken**

- 14<sup>th</sup> November
  - Notice AGM
  - Burns night preparation