

Parent Council Meeting

Location: Earlston High School

Date: 9th January 2019

Meeting Commenced: 7:05pm

Time Adjourned: 9:07pm

Attendees	Apologies
Fiona Donaldson	Kate Richards
Callum Weston	Pooee Pitman
Christie Rout	Jacqui Miller
Judith Bunton	Robert Miller
Heather Thores	Dean Sewell
Giles Etherington	Laura Anderson
Shaad Mehdi	Kate Farnsworth
Gordon Craig	Alice MacBrayne
Karen Wexelstein	Ninian Grant
Fay Lockie	Catherine
Annabel Howell	Louise Cox
Kath Lothian	Susan Currie
Allan Dawson	Siobhan Dawson
Ruth Magowan	Anne Duguid
Justin Sinclair	Annie Jones
Kath Lothian	Stuart Macpherson
	Lynne Morgan Hastie

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Set out an ambitious three-year plan to be in place after the summer
 - The parental survey was very useful as well as the parent council group
 - Publication date to be June 2019
 - High level messages
 - S1-3 learning, teaching, assessment and reporting
 - Also, a focus on homework and reading for enjoyment
 - Think that 'radical' changes to qualification system to die down
 - Plan is to be 3 years to reach the depth and richness required
 - Look at how the school provide meaningful information
 - Students should be able do talk to parents about the stages of their learning, this was why the learning log was introduced
- This year is the most we have ever offered senior peoples
- The school to make some movement on digital innovation in a few months
- It was agreed that the school's resources need to be put into equity
- School concert tickets
 - An investigation showed that the ticket selling system needed changed
 - Move to have the matinée performance as well as the two-night performances to give that extra option
 - 7-day rule - parent council agrees with this
 - All performers, including sound and light chorographers etc., will have access to 2 tickets each
 - Office becomes a ticket office for one week every show which we cannot have
 - Eventbrite system to be trialled for Easter
 - A limit can be set
 - In cases where people don't have access to a printer, they can visit the school office with cash
 - The system is fair
 - Have select times and days to come into the office
 - We cannot offer more performances
 - The matinée performance is a great time to bring children and family. It was greatly appreciated by attendees recently
- Emails are not being passed on or dealt with
 - Introducing a new system where the office will record the date, pupil, parent, who the email was forwarded to, date forwarded email was sent and the issue so that the school can keep an online record of all issues that the school receives in the Earlston High School general inbox email

- EO3 'back to old habits' arriving 'after second bell'
- E13 and 60 are always late

Action(s) to be taken

- Parents to contact Passenger transport

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Cosy Café Update
 - A 2-strand project to support vulnerable S1-3 pupils
 - 2 groups within project
 - 1 group participate in human-utopia to become 'heroes'
 - The other group is run by the Chaplaincy Team, to run lunch time clubs for students, includes games and revision sessions
 - Its good to have a quiet place to go to in such a busy school
 - When the S3s become S4s we hope that they have the confidence to help those in S1-3
 - The program is led by pupils

Action(s) to be taken

- Get students that oversee the Cosy Café to come to the next meeting

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Communication with many groups and schools to ensure that as much information can be collected so that we can do it right
- The key message is that we have a committed and passionate group that realise that the change cannot happen overnight
- Hope that the change is what the school is open to be able to be successful
- We have come deeper into the subject since the parent council last met
- It is great to have parent's opinions
- Ensure that any pupil has all the same opportunities as others and not to be economically affected

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- The school dances have happened since the last meeting of the parent council
 - There was a new 'structure' for the senior dance which worked very well, A big thanks to the dance committee
- A big thanks to Kath Lothian for pointing the head team in the right direction to get funds from the parent council and a big thanks to the parent council for donating funds for the S6 study suite
- The head team have started to try selling Burn's Night tickets and we would like to thank the parent council for taking our ideas on board

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- No events have taken place since 14th November 2018
- Parent council chairs meeting
 - Up and coming meeting for the wider parent council committee
 - Anyone willing to represent Earlston High School
 - At Scottish Borders Council Headquarters at 6:30pm on:
 - Thursday 14th February
 - Tuesday 16th April
 - Wednesday 12th June
 - It is a useful group to attend

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- The only event since the AGM was the fashion show
- Kath would like £100 S6 photo in study suite, discuss with wider S6?
- Can buy class photo digitally and print it for cheaper?
 - Head team are happy to get the photo printed from TBC
 - Sourcing of photo to be further investigated

Action(s) to be taken

- Head team to look into how Photo can be sourced

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Ticket sales are slow however Ninian is on top of it
- The office was asked if tickets could also go on parent pay however this is impossible in case there is a clash with cash sold tickets
- Tickets are only available from the head team currently which is not suitable for parents who would like to buy a ticket
- The PE department are happy to organise music
- Mr Woodcock could be the back-up for Mr Kidd?
- A member of the kitchen staff must be responsible in case a parent injures themselves
 - We could sign a document saying that parent council is responsible for any injury caused as we did with the soup
- Soup must be vegetarian and use vegetable stock
 - To be handed in the morning of the supper
- Tam o' shanter and immortal memory have been cancelled from the evening
- Who invites the staff?
 - An email sent to staff inviting them to the Burn's Supper would be nice
- We have enough biscuits for the evening
- The evening is from 6:30 to 10:00
- Helpers for the evening are already organised
- Would it be possible for a few more to join the organising committee - helping in general.
 - Meeting again soon
- Ask all parents for help organising and helping
- 2 of the speakers have been cancelled
- Gifts for the speakers?
 - Whiskey and chocolate
- Almost 2 hours extra
- Parents can clear-up 'behind the scenes'
- Toasts at start to lads and ladies to be moved to just before the ceilidh

Action(s) to be taken

- Thank the Co-op for previous help and contributions
- Annabel to make up a message for Justin to forward to the staff, inviting them to the Burn's Supper
- Ninian to give parent council an update of ticket sales
- Calum to ask Miss Pate to ask Mr Kidd if he can do announcements etc.

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Main points to get more feedback from
 - “my child is encouraged and stretched to the best of my ability”
 - There is as much ‘don’t know’ as ‘disagree’
 - Rephrase the word ‘goals’ to encourage greater work ethic
 - Foundation of ‘Further Reading’ to be set in lower years
 - Role modelling from senior years
 - “the school keeps me well informed about my child’s progress”
 - Move the focus of the school to younger years
 - Create a way to share information between parents, pupils and staff
 - We must be careful of how we assess pupils
 - Is there a way to see how a pupil is achieving regarding their class mates and what they need to achieve to get the qualification?
 - We do not want to jeopardise the successful attainment in S4, 5 and 6 but still have a focus on improving success in lower years
 - Look at the value of reports and other methods of sharing information on the child’s progress
 - Could time spent writing reports be better spent with a one-to-one with the student
 - Encourage students to attend parent’s evenings
 - Create an open discussion for a better way to report, which is believed that digital technology can help the school to achieve this
 - “I feel the staff really know my child as an individual and supports them well”
 - “the school asks for and takes my views into account”
 - The perception that parents do not know how to make their views clearly to the school
 - This could be done through parent council members or contacting the school directly
 - Could Earlston High School add upon the national questions of the survey so that more qualitative information is given for the school to use
 - The parent council could contribute 1 or 2 extra questions
 - How are we to get more people to respond?

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Communication of the school
 - Information about prelims was not in the school bag
 - Old website, we cannot access to delete it
 - Lots of effort needs to be put into transferring the same information on to the website as well as the Facebook and any other methods, which is why communication needs to be improved to be more effective

Action(s) to be taken

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