

Parent Council Meeting

Location: Earlston High School

Date: 7th February 2019

Meeting Commenced: 7:02pm

Time Adjourned: 8:23pm

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

**The head team apologise for not having a representative due to a mix up of dates.

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Applied for a lottery licence
- The money gained from this goes to three places
 - The company for organising the lottery
 - The prize of the winner
 - And money back to the school
 - This will be used for equity funding as well as general school support
- The lottery is over lots of schools in the borders
- This should give the school an extra monthly revenue stream to support the school
- The lottery is done all online
- The lottery will be launched on Saturday 23rd March
- We found that there was too much documentation to have a charitable school group
- Staffing
 - All English teachers are back
 - No vacancies
- There have been 2 border school inspections – EHS soon?
 - Due to this we are running an internal inspection with some external inspectors as well as Mr Hayes and Mrs MacDonald
- Principal teachers are completing a document “how good is your school?”
 - We will be looking for volunteers to help with improving the school
 - A final date will need to be confirmed
 - We will start looking for previously mentioned volunteers around March/April time
- We will look at broad general education (S1-3) and refresh what it looks like e.g.
 - The transition from primary
 - The reports sent home etc.
 - This is becoming a Scotland wide theme for schools

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- N/A

Action(s) to be taken

- N/A

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Burns supper
 - The evening was successful
 - Earned £308 but will need to find out-standing payments
 - We sold 67 tickets
 - We may not break even
 - There was a lot of food wastage
 - Students were not attracted to parents attending
 - It needs to be clearer who is allowed to attend
 - Usually it is a 50:50 ratio of parents and students but there were only about 12 parents this year
 - The S5 year group were reluctant to get involved
 - The ceilidh was a success
 - We need to start planning much earlier
 - The head team started to sell too late to the S5s
 - We should target ALL senior years
 - We could have a delayed burns supper so that it is not straight after prelims
 - Especially as prelims have now been extended
 - There was fewer overall attendance
 - It is a good event
 - Start at least two months before- like in September
 - Is there a better night?
 - Friday night may be better

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Just starting – we have 10 teachers
- Looking how much, it cost to come to Earlston High School e.g.
 - Costs of luxuries, essentials and trips
- This task will not just finish after one year
- ‘Amanda’ a pupil equity fund (PEF) will come in to see what we are doing
- The group is split into three sub groups
- Audit
 - Curricular cost beyond S1 are not as big
 - Principal teachers do not have much knowledge of other departments asking for money
 - Create a school timetable so that the cost of the year is more spread out and not asked for in one large sum
 - Departments to think about when they are asking for money
 - There are no cost spikes in humanities in S1 and 2 for example
- Survey
 - Parents do not know that we have done a sample survey with S2 parents
 - We were looking for a positive reaction to the questions being asked
 - The survey is anonymous
 - Therefore, we should find another way to collect focus group members
 - Question if parents are aware how they need to financially contribute to the school for their child
 - We have a feeling that parent do however, we do not have any hard data which supports this
 - We need to find out haw to get this information
 - Of 32 responses
 - 27 said trips were one of the biggest three costs
 - 16 said cost of break and lunch was another of the biggest three costs
 - People have more understanding of free school meals
 - S2 parents said the they were comfortable to talk to staff if they were struggling
 - More yes responses that no
 - Most (21) said that they do not know if Earlston high School are doing enough to ensure financial equity
- What level of commitment does the focus group involve?
- Parent pay
 - Parents are buying unneeded items because they are popping up even though they are not relevant to their child, but they think they are
- Ask pupils how they receive equity if they do not buy certain items

- Offer things like unused art packs to the swap shop
- Resell books back to the school based on the quality they are handed in
 - Changes in courses make it difficult to reuse resources effectively
- An EHS funding group to be set up to manage and have funds for students who need it
- Expensive sport equipment
 - Gap where to buy equipment and start the sport?
- It is unknown to parents what is and is not compulsory to buy
- Focus needs to be at P7-S1 but not where all our focus will be

Action(s) to be taken

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Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Cheque given to Christie for S6 picture and Study suite
- Old website has finally been taken down

Action(s) to be taken

- Add fundraising to next meetings' agenda

Date for Next Meeting(s)

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Thursday 7th March 2019

Action(s) to be taken

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