

# EARLSTON HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7.06pm  
Earlston High School

**Chair:** Annabel Howell

**Vice-Chair:** Gordon Craig, Allan Dawson

**Secretary:** Michael Kerr

**Treasurer:** Fay Lockie

**Present :** Fay Lockie, Louise Cox, Shaad Mehdi, Callum Weston- Head Team, Ninian Grant- Head Team, Kate Richards, Fiona Donaldson, Ruth Magowan, Annabel Howell, Laura Anderson, Judith Bunton, Lynne Morgan-Hastie, Kath Lothian, Justin Sinclair, Damian Hayes, Ruth Magowan

**Apologies :** Robert Millar, Jacqui Millar, Anne Jones, Gordon Craig, Allan Dawson, Kate Farnsworth, Anne Duguid, Karen Wexelstein, Siobhan Dawson, Giles Etherington, Heather Thores, Alice MacBrayne- Head Team, Christie Rout- Head Team, Stuart Macpherson, Pooee Pitman, Dean Sewell

### 1. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Approved by: Annabel Howell

Seconded by: Justin Sinclair

### 2. HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

**Attainment update** - 2 important aspects: Wellbeing and Achieving

Over 3 years we (Earlston High School) is beating the comparator of the whole of Scotland in National 5 Numeracy and Literacy. It is important that these positive trends continue.

We have been working with cluster schools to make learning better e.g. the PEE chain, an acronym to answer questions effectively

For 2 years running EHS are sitting at 98% of leavers going to positive destinations. This is due to the work of Mr Ferguson, the guidance department and the deputy heads.

Leavers are followed for 6 months.

What if this was increased to 5 years to show that it is a positive long-term destination.

This would give Mr Ferguson feedback to prove that these routes are positive long-term options for students.

Raw attainment - EHS are doing better than the virtual competitor however we still aim for a higher attainment goal.

Aim to close gap of income and background influences on success at school - We have a passionate equity for Earlston group.

Reflecting on where we are - Our staff and our students are doing well, However, there is still work to do for our young people

**Inspire learning** - open to a new WIFI infrastructure

This technology is to be used: As a tool to enhance learning

Allow collaboration on work

Allow teachers to give more regular feedback to students

This is a 10-year program. Discuss further, more ways to use this technology to enhance learning.

All young people will have access to the technology to develop the skills for use in later life

The technology will also provide as a useful tool for students who are unable to attend school, for any reason. The teacher is able to control I-pads, whether that is to freeze student's screens or display examples on a main board. This technology will also aid students who are embarrassed to ask for help publicly. Facetime could possibly be used for parent evenings or for absent students to be involved in the class

**Lottery** - First lottery draw 23<sup>rd</sup> March – please get involved. Over 18s only.

Main use of advertising is Facebook. Could use Twitter and word of mouth is also effective.

Send out a group call with a link

Should publicise clearer what the money goes towards

**School show tickets** - Discovered that Eventbrite was very expensive.

We are going to use the same process but using the office staff who will be paid an extra hour

The Easter show will be the trial

Feedback is important at this stage

### 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

**Burns' Night** – Successful. Thanks to the Head team and the parent organisers.

Expand the event for next year. It is lovely to attend the event as a guest. There were very few S5s and fewer parents and staff this year. We could open the event to the whole school until the evening regains momentum, which would also allow time for S1 parents to meet others. Day and time are important for as many people as possible to attend - Mid-week is difficult, move to Friday?

What if it was later e.g. February- after prelims?

It would be a disappointment to lose the event.

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in account: £7017

Income £308 from ticket sales for Burns supper, Expenditure £93 for haggis – Burns Supper running at a loss.

### 5. EQUITY FOR EARLSTON TASK

The group has finished the cost of the school day and is moving to national training after finishing the cost of school events and trips and solutions. We MAY change excursions based on the scoping of this group. Difficult decisions will need to be made. There is a letter about this group to go out to all parents.

Encourage parents to display reasonable behaviour when using social media and to encourage not setting a bad example on pupils and advise everyone to be aware and mindful on social media.

## **6. FUNDRAISING**

Received an email from Kayleigh Macbeth about Junk Kouture- we supported a group last year to go to the final.

We could organise a local competition and link it with a fashion show

Colours fashion show- selling tickets was hard work

We are not attracting parents to events except concerts - Involving students attracts more parents.

Ask a couple of parents to join the charities committee.

Could have a mini show before or in concert interval

Should not just rely on Facebook and parent's evenings to communicate with parents – Use email More. There are social media feeds on school website therefore people do not need a social media account to see the Facebook feeds.

Target S1 year group to encourage attendance in later years

Create groups for each year group with students (with opportunity to become a fundraising Ambassador with clear information to parents that support required), their parents and staff to work together on fundraising tasks.

Create an annual plan for fundraising to be more successful

Parent council section on monthly newsletter

Allow an option to subscribe to website feeds and selected groups and year groups

A few parents to create a sub group to go over new policies set by and for the school – Parents who volunteered – Allan Dawson, Gordon Craig, Kath Lothian, Ruth Magowan, Annabel Howell.

## **7. AOCB**

Put 'Dealing with School Bullying Booklet' on school website.

A few parents to create a small sub group to go over new policies set by and for the school.

Notice from pupil council, parent council and school to advise consideration and responsible driving and behaviour when parking and driving around the school, especially during the beginning and end of school. Email Scottish Borders Council for a 5mph speed limit up to the school.

Cosy café: 30-45 pupils every lunch time on a Wednesday. Helpers include Humanutopia heroes and chaplaincy team helpers and have 4 parents on list. We need funding (heroes to do some), help from parishes. Café to be 'advertised' on website.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> – Conference Room at 7pm

Add Fundraising Ambassadors to agenda