**PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS COUNCIL**



**Parents Council Meeting**

**14th November 2109**

**Minutes**

**Attendees**: Glenda Barton (Chair) Justin Noon (Depute Head ),Tommy Davidson, Vanessa Rice, Eric Nightingale, Gail Jackson, Chris Knight, Lindsay Pearson, Susan Jarvis, Margaret Hogg, Tristan Compton, Sarah Duncan, Tyne Lovell-Henderson, Vicki Swan, Alys Rodwell, Lilian Carlyle, Brian Carlyle, Sarah Keen.

**Apologies** - Campbell Wilson, Rachel Beatton, Muriel Forman, Angela Dobie, Max Volino.

**1)** **Welcome and Introductions** and a thank you to Justin Noon for attending to run a session for us.

**2)** **Minute**s of the October meeting were approved.

3) **Q & A – what is on your mind**? (This is updated below).

Updated rules for lottery, School show catering, payment for clerk (SBC), wellbeing of teachers, young engineers, dates of prelims, ski bus return outdoor lights, awards and recognition.

**4)** **Eco-group**

Praise was expressed to the Eco- group and thanks to the Peeblesshire News for their great coverage of the transformative plastic free strategy employed by the students, staff and parents.

**5)** **Ethos Working & Improvement Group. (Bullying Survey).**

As part of the whole school survey, we will see various pieces of work being communicated under the banner “You said/we did.” This is to communicate to parents/carers, students and staff, how the school are responding to feedback from the whole school survey that goes out annually.

The Ethos Working group led by Jeremy Lee (Depute head) are continuing with a programme on positive relationships. This has to be revisited regularly, as students arrive and leave every year. Specifically, there is an ongoing review of the effectiveness of this programme, as the school want students to be healthy and happy. The survey suggested we should investigate bullying in more detail and since then Donna Moretta (Depute Head) has run assemblies on bullying plus a more in depth survey has been sent by groupcall, to all parents and carers. NB the PC Chair is also a member of this working/improvement group.

Please fill in the following questionnaire if you haven’t had a chance to do so, see link below:

[**https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N2KD5QK**](about:blank)

**6) Teaching and Learning - School Improvement Plan. (Justin Noon)**

The Chair reviewed the journey we are on this session i.e. after the success of the Opportunity Pot fundraising, our priority now is to be an equal partner in the design of the School Improvement Plan.

We have raised a number of priorities in our previous meetings and volunteered to work in partnership with the school in ongoing working/ improvements groups.

We agreed the number one priority area of all of these is Teaching and Learning.

Justin Noon reviewed the National Guidelines “How Good Is Your School “document introduced at the last meeting but specifically regarding the Section on Learning and teaching.

We are getting better as a school at collecting our data over the last few years but we still need to improve on how we develop this into our school improvement plan. (SIP).

Any HMIe Inspection is in two categories and looks at the following:-

**Long Inspection** – Looking at Leadership of Change, Learning, Teaching & Assessment and Raising Attainment & Achievement.

**Short Inspection** –Learning, Teaching & Assessment and Raising Attainment & Achievement.

Based on academic research, the one thing that improves academic outcomes, is the Quality of Teaching & Learning and Leadership of Change (and the closer that leadership is to the classroom the better).

**This should be our one thing - our unifying purpose as a school and community.**

**The Survey**

After the survey, meetings with students have been held to ask students if they know their next steps in learning or is their voice heard to influence classroom practice. Most students, across all year groups, were not able to answer YES to these questions.

Parents’ feedback from the survey:-  
58% do not agree that they are given advice on how to support their child with learning at home.

71% agree that their child is making good progress at school.

50% do not agree that they are satisfied with the quality of teaching at the school.

Parents raised concerns about the focus on attainment at the expense of other things. Mr Noon expressed that the school policy is not to stop students trying to sit exams. Some parents expressed that is not always the case.

As a result of stakeholder feedback the T&L focus for 2019-20 is:

* Quality of instruction (LI/SC)
* Feedback (every young person knows their next steps in learning)
* Voice and choice (young people involved in learning)
* Communication with parents including homework

During session 2019-20 all stakeholders will be involved in creating a Peebles High School features of highly effective learning and teaching framework.

This framework will be used to support our school with a variety of quality improvement activities.

**Plans for 2019/20**

-Staff In service training (Aug)

-Staff after school (Sept)

-Young People Assemblies (Sept)

-Staff T & L reading and meeting during prelims

-Pupil Focus Groups

-Parent Focus group at parent council (Nov)

-Further Parental Focus Groups (PC will help)

**Action** - **a list of parents from the PC have already put their names forward for the focus groups and we would welcome parents from the wider parent forum, to let us know or the school, if they would like to be involved too?**

**Overall our goal** - to have a highly effective learning & teaching framework. All stakeholders will be involved in creating this.

Following on from this, all parents were invited to participate in a focus group that asked two key questions.

**A) What works & what are we doing well?**

**B) It would be even better IF….**

**Action**: Justin Noon to capture all this feedback and invite parents to the next focus groups (around Prelim time.)

**7)** **Neurodiversity - Vanessa Rice**

Vanessa explained, within society, there is a positive shift towards people who do not “fit the norm”. There is acceptance that there is a different way that the brain works for some people. Many organisations welcome the opportunity to have people in their companies who look at problems a different way. So it is a great upside to have people with different skills.

Vanessa has collated feedback from parents expressing views on the current provision of support for students with learning challenges eg Dyslexia, Autism. ADHD etc.

What works well?

* Intention of school is good and has the right ambition
* There is a centre for learning support
* Some incredible teachers that “get it” and go out of their way to help
* Level of flexibility to drop subjects.

It would be even better if…

* There was a more effective transition from Primary School to High School
* Awareness and acceptance (for example, coloured paper/need out of class early)
* Increase level of ambition / make them life-long learners (80% Autistic People unemployed)
* Need the right support
* Adapt to the pace of the student
* Educate teachers to better understand
* Educate students as well
* Differentiated and tailored approach to learning
* SQA issues with subject teachers assessing students individually and annually

NB Parents can be an enormous help - please don’t see us as pushy - we have additional information that can help.

**Action -** Try and categorise the long list of feedback / meet as a group with school (eg Ms Geddes and Mrs Guess) and report back next time on progress. Copy to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Noon.

**8) Q & A Revisited**

* **Lottery Group Update** -Revised rules have been circulated to post holders to review. These are now on the website for the whole parent forum to look at - please advise of any comments? Agreed to spend £40 on banner and attendance at the school show evenings, to publicise the lottery.
* **School Show Volunteers for catering.** 26th, 27th & 28thNovember. Please advise Tristan if you are willing to help?
* **Young Engineers**. Request from Gail Jackson to ensure that this opportunity at Edinburgh Uni is taken up – Justin Noon to follow up with science teachers to respond to her email.
* **Lights for Bus returning from Ski events** – in dark evenings, please can there be lights for returning students – Justin Noon to follow up.
* **Wellbeing room**- consider this for teachers please?
* **SBC** has approved the application by our treasurer Eric, to give us funding for our clerk and we agreed this can be split up in two halves if required.
* Awards and recognition – to be carried over.

**9. Post Holder Updates –Treasurer**

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| **SUMMARY OF BANK ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS SINCE LAST PC MEETING** | | | | | | | | |
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| **PHS LOTTERY** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Bank Smt** |  | **U/P Chqs** |  | **Net** |
|  |  |  |  | **£** |  | **£** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Balance at 21/10/2019 | | | 9,956.28 |  | -500 |  | 9,456.28 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Lottery Income | |  | 53 |  | 0 |  | 53 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Prizes |  |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Other |  |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Balance at 14/11/2019 | | | 10,009.28 |  | -500 |  | 9,509.28 |
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| **PHS ASSOCIATION** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  | **Bank Smt** |  | **U/P Chqs** |  | **Net** |
|  |  |  |  | **£** |  | **£** |  | **£** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Balance at 21/10/2019 | | | 8,242.73 |  | -25 |  | 8,217.73 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Opportunity Pot / Auction | | | 340 |  |  |  | 340 |
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|  | Balance at 14/11/2019 | | | 8,582.73 |  | -25 |  | 8,557.73 |
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| Prepared by: | Eric Nightingale | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Treasurer | |  |  |  |  |  |  |