

**PHS Parent Council**

**1 March 2023**

**In-person meeting – Peebles High School**

**Attendees**

Sarah Duncan, Chairperson 17 parents joined the meeting

Susan Jarvis, Co Vice Chair

Ellie Johnstone, Co Vice Chair

Claire Barrett, Secretary

Judith Ackerman, Communications Lead

Elodie Sellar, Events Coordinator

Tristan Compton, Property Working Group

Eric Nightingale, Friends of PHS SCIO representative

Campbell Wilson, Headteacher (CW)

Donna Moretta, Depute Head

Alasdair Reid, Depute Head

Karen Mooney, Depute Head (KM)

Steven Renwick, SBC (SR)

Lesley Munro, SBC (LM)

**Welcome, Minutes & Actions Sarah Duncan**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated on following actions:

* The parent session on the ‘bystander approach’ will be scheduled before the end of the school year.
* Uniform review group will provide a report with recommendations to Mr Wilson in March with a view to making a decision in April. It was confirmed that all current uniform will still be suitable but there may be more flexibility in the new policy.
* Taskforce haven’t managed to progress with cosmetic improvements to school as require an approved contractor on site to supervise work. SBC had agreed to consider a process where volunteers can contribute in this way and will report back to us.

**Headteacher Update Campbell Wilson**

**Peebles High School Review**

A great deal of work has been undertaken to meet the key recommendations of the review team who visited in October. We will be presenting updates later on the agenda when you can interrogate progress with the key recommendations. I will say that, while it didn’t necessarily feel like it in October, the review has provided a welcome opportunity to reconsider our approach to some challenging issues and get ‘back to basics’ with regards to the good order and standards in the school. The school is more orderly, calmer and safer than was the case in September and there is a more optimistic feeling about how we move forward together to be the best we can be. There is no complacency about any of our ongoing challenges but I remain resolute in my determination to overcome the key targets set by the authority and complete the work of our School Improvement Plan. Your feedback and contributions tonight will inform the next plan and our priorities. Thank you for your recent increased effort in supporting our uniform focus, standards have been markedly higher since the February break. I look forward to discussing the recommendations of the uniform review group soon.

**Staffing**

With our young people finalising their choices at present, our attention is firmly focussed on ensuring the right staffing model is in place for the next academic session starting in June. Our budget position is much better this session that at the same time last session and I feel with a fully staffed SLT and teaching staff, we are in a better than ever position to move into the new year. Recruiting quality Maths teachers is always a challenge so it was great to be able to appoint a very good NQT last week. Rebecca Moodie will start with us in August.

**LRC and silent study spaces**

Senior Students from Tweed Reads have successfully petitioned for a ‘reading shed’ to be established to allow for the issuing of books again. All necessary bureaucracy has been dealt with and we are now just awaiting the arrival and erection of the shed and the sign off on adjusted fire regs prior to re-instating a book borrowing service. Next session we expect to be able to reinstate the LRC fully as both a book borrowing library and silent, staffed study area. To make that work prior to June would cause significant upheaval to several classes across the curriculum. In the interim, we are providing dedicated silent study spaces every period of the week and have been so doing since the start of prelims. Unfortunately, demand is not very high with most young people choosing the canteen and atrium to work during study periods.

**Insight update**

The National Insight update went live yesterday and this usually signals the green light for National Newspapers to publish school league tables. Earlier in the session, I promised a evening meeting to interrogate our most recent results but held back until this update to include sustained positive destinations rather than initial leaver destinations (98%). It will also include appeals results which were previously not included. I will present these before Easter and invite Parents in to the Hall to hear about our performance against the National cohort and our Virtual Comparator. We know our results are “Very Good” but the evening will explore our biggest strengths and areas of development (especially the Poverty related attainment Gap in Peebles.

*Does any budget underspend get carried over? Could we suggest using it for cosmetic upgrades?*

Underspend is in staffing therefore can’t be used for other costs. Temp (mat leave) contracts had no applicants - these are in technical, business, maths, home economics. A ‘Cluster balance’ may be used to help primaries in this area balance their books.

**Parent experience survey results – Susan Jarvis, co-vice chair**

The [survey results](https://phsparents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PHS-Parent-Experience-Survey-Results-2023.pptx) were presented – these feed into the school improvement plan and have been shared with the school. Survey is run annually and try to keep questions the same so can compare.

**School improvement - workshop**

The Senior Leadership team held table discussions around 4 topics:

Mr Reid - Curriculum and Wider Achievement

Mr Wilson - Leadership, Behaviour & Communication

Mrs Moretta - Ensuring Wellbeing, Equity & Inclusion

Mrs Mooney - Teaching and Learning

Parents were given the opportunity to spend time at each table hearing about recent improvements and asking questions. Feedback will be used to inform the School Improvement Plan for 2023-24.

**8.45 Open Q&A**

*Parent Survey results – some of them are shocking and heading in wrong direction from last year’s.*

CW – We were disappointed with the results but in context of where we are as a school and the zeitgeist around the school from October review were not surprised. We know from behaviours in school we’re moving back to being in right direction. There have been big improvements in certain targets set by SBC and celebrating any green shoots does not mean we are ignoring concerns. It will contribute to our decisions around the next school Improvement plan but I’m more focused on delivering the school improvement plan we’ve not yet delivered and the SBC review.

*Communication is a significant concern, what more can be done in this area?*

KM - Showbie is being gradually introduced across the school but there have been technical issues, it will be a wider scale rollout than first proposed and we will communicate on this when progress has been made. Our aim is to understand what Showbie can do, pilot it and design a new reporting system for next session.

*Is there any opportunity to recognise pupils leaving before S6? S6 have graduation ceremony, can S4/5 have one?*

CW - Graduation certificates were done in the past and staff have suggested reinstating this. Will look into how to recognise achievement for leavers at the end of S4 & S5.

**Action: Mrs Mooney to take forward opportunities to recognise S4/5’s leaving school**

*There is lots of support for young people applying to uni but there’s no formal support in class for applications to college – feels not valued the same?*

DM – this is fair comment, we will consider the support provided and aim to improve this.

*Is the daily bulletin up to date on website?*

KM – there was a broken link meaning the document wasn’t up-to-date but that should now be fixed. The process relies on a member of the admin team having time each day to remove personal information and upload.

**Action: Mrs Mooney to find solution for keeping the daily bulletin up to date on the website.**

*Is house time proving helpful?*

DM - It is working for some pupils but there are inconsistencies across the school. We are keeping house time and will improve it next year before considering if another approach could better provide pupils with a daily opportunity to access some pastoral support.

**The meeting closed at 21.10**

**Please get in touch around any of the issues raised at** [**phspc@outlook.com**](mailto:phspc@outlook.com)

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**Helpful Info/Reminders**

**Parent Council Meeting Dates for 2022/23**

Tuesday 17 January 2023 - virtual

Wednesday 1 March 2023 – in person

Thursday 27 April 2023 - virtual

Tuesday 6 June 2023 (AGM) – in person

**Post Holders**

Chair - Sarah Duncan

Vice Chairs - Susan Jarvis  & Ellie Johnstone

Secretary - Claire Barrett

Communications Officer - Judith Ackerman

Equalities Lead - Lorraine Murray

Event Coordinators - Dee Hollingsbee & Elodie Seller

Friends of Peebles High School SCIO representative - Eric Nightingale

Property Lead – Tristan Compton

Taskforce Coordinator - Max Volino

We welcome interested parents & careers on the Parent Council as general members or working group members. We simply ask that you try to attend meetings regularly. If you would like to be an ordinary member or join a specific working group, please email your details to**:** [**phspc@outlook.com**](mailto:phspc@outlook.com)

Any parent or carer interested in supporting the Friends of PHS charity with running fundraising activities should get in touch at <mailto:FriendsofPHS@outlook.com>

**Website: phsparents.org.uk** (includes live feed for Twitter)

**Facebook: PHS Parents –** can contact us via Messenger

**Twitter:** @PHSparents @PeeblesHigh