

# PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL/PTA



**Parent Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.00pm**  
**in the meeting room in the new Sports Facility**

## MINUTES

### Welcome

Michael Pryor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Justin Noon (Depute) who was attending to report on the Pupil Support Initiative.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Susan MacDonald, Sandra Grieve, Laura Robertson and Monica Shaw.

### Minutes from December meeting

Update from Learning Support PHS. They were able to start-up without any funding from PHS.

Tracking and Monitoring headline to be changed to "Pupil Support Pilot".

### Updates:

#### a. PTA Update

##### Recent Events

##### Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert was a huge success. The evening was most enjoyable and raised in excess of £600 for PTA funds. Thanks to everyone who helped during the event and special thanks to The Co-operative Foodstore who supplied the mince pies. The Christmas hamper was donated to The Peebles Foodbank which proved to be a popular decision.

##### Current Projects

##### Spring Fundraising Initiative and Prize Draw

The Spring Fundraising initiative is currently underway and the prize draw will conclude on the 24<sup>th</sup> March during the Spring Concert. Special thanks to The Castle Warehouse for their generous sponsorship and to the many businesses who have pledged their support. The PTA have worked closely in partnership with the senior student council and would like to thank the students for their efforts.

##### Future Events

##### Spring Concert

The PTA will be providing the refreshments and tuck shop at the school Spring concert. Tesco have confirmed that they will be sponsoring the event and supplying the hot cross buns. Refreshments will also be provided for all the performers on the evening.

Peebles Pensioners Event – The Burgh Hall /April

The PTA plan to take part in a fundraiser organised by The Peebles Pensioners Group. This will allow the group the opportunity to support another community organisation whilst also providing a fundraising opportunity.

Other Business

The Peeblesshire News

The PTA has gained a weekly column in The Peeblesshire News. This will allow the group to communicate effectively with the local community.

Membership

Group membership continues to grow and we are pleased to report that we have gained new members following the P7 parent's information evenings.

b. Learning Support PHS

The coffee morning in December raised £1,242 for the Learning support department. They had the high school band, stalls. £1,000 has been allocated to LS Department. They are aiming to raise money for a portable projector. They are having a duck race on 4<sup>th</sup> June and a grand prize draw on the same day. LS are moving to the house in the school and money is going towards refurbishment. There will be a table in Sainsbury's 1<sup>st</sup> April to sell ducks and table outside Tontine as well. Somebody is also doing a £10k run. There are three things they are looking at: 1. Feedback from parents from transition period. 2. Students to design a logo. 3. Web pages.

c. PHS200

CW thanked everyone from PHS200 who had worked on the survey of students and parents that provided feedback for the pupil support class pilot.

One key area of the 20/20 vision still to be completed is the Tracking and Monitoring project. Justin Noon recently met with Glenda Barton and Paula Edmiston to discuss systems for pupil tracking, including seeing a demonstration from PE on the excellent online student portal used by Edinburgh University. The school has also received presentations by commercial providers of specialist tracking software, although web-based systems may present some security issues that will need to be addressed with SBC.

CW is to report back once a SBC have made a decision on system preferences. SEEMIS is the Scottish Government-mandated data collection system, which is very inflexible in the form used by SBC. The PC/PHS200 hopes to give confidence to senior management at SBC that a solution to these limitations can be found. Another area to firm up is what information would go onto the system – parental support is sought to help formulate this. Next step – consultation and discussion with parents, teachers to decide what information would be useful to share. The school needs to have SBC approval and teacher buy in. GB asked if we could agree a plan and timeline for implementation.

The project group consists of GB MP PE LR TD plus staff including JN and PF, and will meet in w/c 21 March 2016 and report to the next PC meeting.

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### Constitution

Lisa Anderson has found the original PHS PC constitution and considers that it is still fit for purpose.

Action: MP to circulate the constitution and ask for feedback before the AGM.

#### Training for Office Bearers

Action: This is to be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

### **Matters Arising**

#### Website

Campbell Wilson reported that Simon Fraser is working on an update to the website.

#### 20/20 Vision

CW advise the School are having to look at the 20/20 Vision for the school to bring it in line with the new [HGIOS4](#) (How Good is Our School Edition 4) Government guidelines for schools.

#### School Estate Consultation

##### Inset Days

There was a general discussion about the inset days. CW supports 2 days in August with the rest of the inset days balanced across the week, following feedback from PTs who favour a spread rather than a focus on one day of week.

Parents at the meeting support removal of the November holiday and questioned why Easter Monday wasn't a holiday as a lot of parents have this day as a holiday from work.

The Parent Council is supportive of moving one of the November days to August and also having Easter Monday as a holiday. CW advised the Tweeddale holiday is the Friday before October break and seems to work well.

#### School Estate – Pre-consultation

There is an online survey for parents to give SBC ideas on what areas should be consulted on once the main consultation commences. There is also an open session run by SBC on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm to 7.30pm at Peebles High School to give parents and the community background information on the current local school estate. The meeting discussed PHS's specific requirements – the main issue is that the maths tower needs replacing in the next 10 years, and other parts of the school require improvement. A new school is one option that might be considered in future, as is refurbishment and part new build, with parents favouring remaining on the current site at the heart of the Peebles community. An e-mail will be sent out to parents ask them to contribute to the survey.

### Wifi

The schools wifi capacity will be shortly increased 4x. Some teachers have been facetimeing students who have been unable to attend in person and this seems to be working well.

## **Rectors Report**

### New Staff

Martin Russell (maths), Alex Wallis (maternity cover, English), Willie Porteous and Davie Hardie (Janitors), Rachel Finney (Admin staff).

There are now three janitors who work different shifts to provide better cover for the school which saves on overtime.

Insight results were published last week. CW to have an open evening, now planned for 27<sup>th</sup> April to show parents the schools results on this system. CW will also have this filmed and will make it available as a podcast to parents. CW gave the meeting a preview of the Insight outputs at the close of meeting, which showed PHS performing extremely well against comparator schools.

LS is moving to the house at front of school to give them extra space. They will need to have wheelchair access installed. Pastoral rooms are moving into school.

CW is going to Moffat tomorrow with JN, head boy and head girl to talk about maths good practice. They would also like to work with Biggar and Moffat High schools to find work placements for students with additional needs (with Stepping Up Enable Scotland's Stepping Up project). CW is meeting with David Mundell on Friday.

## **Any Other Business**

### PHS200

Laura Robertson wanted to know how to pay the money to the school. Margaret Hogg to advise Laura to write a cheque to PHS and send to PHS for the attention of Helen Porteous.

### Senior Parent evening slots

Parents feel the 5 minute slots are not long enough. CW will add this as an agenda item to the next working time agreement group.

### SBC Bus

The bus after one of the prelims wasn't large enough for all the students wanting to get on it and they were left to phone parents to get lifts. Although this isn't a school matter, CW will look at ways to keep SBC informed of possible increased demand on buses from school children.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.