



Minutes of Meeting 04 October 2018

Attended by:

Luke McCullough (Chair)	Judie Goode
Pauline Walker (HT)	Victoria Bowes
Liz Leslie (Clerk)	Kevin Wallace
Avril Henney (Staff Rep)	Vijay Virasami
Chris Davison (Treasurer)	Martin Williams
Chakrapani Challagali (Treasurer)	Ian Cowie (FP Club)
Jan McInnes	Dorothy Newlands
Eilidh Newlands (Pupil Rep)	David Smith (Pupil Rep)

Topic	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> LM welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Gillian Martin, Jude Walsh, Sibongile Pradhan, Tanya McLeod, Prasad Mangalampalli, Susannah Enaholo and Elise Tallaron. LM advised that Tony Newell would be coming along at 8.30pm with Brian Mackie from the council to talk about Queensferry Road.</p> <p>2. <u>Previous Meeting</u> The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and the following matters arising were noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SQA is on the current agenda ○ LM sent out the link ○ PW asked for ideas on comm/eng to keep coming ○ Parent Council agreed to fund app for 2 years – money now in place ○ Nurture classes in S2 – email sent out clarifying the situation as there was a misunderstanding about the moves ○ Vice chair appointment – to be discussed later <p>3. <u>SQA Results</u> The presentation today is just an overview as the results are still being analysed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School in context – FMR has gone down from 7% to 3.5% as people who are eligible are not applying. Emails have been sent out and parents targeted. Following GDPR no list can be kept and shared between primary and secondary but if parents don't apply it affects the funding given to the school. ➤ 93.8% attendance – pupils still being taken out of school for holidays. 89 pupils have less than 69% attendance. School refusers are usually for emotional health reasons. Due to budget cuts, RHS no longer has an EWO but can use the campus police officer to get pupils in to school. The council are currently looking at a new system. ➤ <u>BGE Attainment</u> – changes from year to year. Across Scotland, the definition of level ¾ is very subjective and is based on cohorts. Numeracy 99% at level 3, 81% at level 4 and @80% of these will sit Nat 5 Reading 95% at level 3 (91% citywide), 79% at level 4. Writing 95% at level 3, 80% at level 4 Listening and talking – 96% at level 3, 80% at level 4 ➤ <u>4th Year Attainment</u> – rated against virtual comparators Low 20% Middle 60% 	

Upper 20%

RHS is above virtual comparator, Edinburgh and national at all levels. Pupils with 5 or more highers is at 70%. Results are strong in 4th year.

- 5th Year Attainment – the middle 60% are pulling away very strongly and lower 20% doing very well. Very pleased with these results. 5 subjects at level 6 = 40% and pupils gaining at least 1 higher is 83.33%
- 6th Year Attainment – finely measured. Lower 20% has seen a tiny difference. The school has worked very hard to increase the middle 60%. Pupils with 5 or more higher = 65%. Half of this cohort will go on to higher education. 93.79% left with a higher. Very strong results for this group.
- Literacy – this includes passing English and Maths or completing a unit. The gold standard is level 5. Pupils are doing significantly better. The strategy to have every pupil leaving with level 5 is working. Off site pupils are still receiving materials to work on.
- Numeracy – 98% have not been picked up as the units didn't go through. There is a positive pattern however and the figure will change once the units are picked up. In answer to a question on number of pupils, PW confirmed that there were 161 on the roll in S6 at certification.

Good feedback has been received from the "Help Your Child To Grow" sessions and parents found the different teaching styles particularly interesting.

4. **Council Budget for Next Session**

The budget should have been in the consultation zone from 1st October but the document was taken down. Yet again, music instruction and PSA's are being targeted. Music tuition will only be funded if the pupil is studying for a music qualification. LM urges every parent to write to their MP about budget cuts. A discussion took place about the budget and the following are the key points :

- Cuts to music tuition disadvantages those who can't afford to pay for it but also there is no guarantee that those studying music will be offered it
- Pressure needs to be put on council to reflect the wider issue of resource cutting
- EPCN/Scot/UK government action – there will be no time to shift government policy by February
- Once the senior phase is prioritised for music instruction and then S1, what is left for the rest of the school
- RHS is already charging for chanting and piping lessons
- Can it be linked with the music initiative to get some funding
- PW advised that there has to be a choice between providing music tuition and getting pupils back into school
- The Scotsman has suggested that there will be cuts to PSA posts. RHS currently have 21 who provide general support to groups of pupils in class
- Schools in Edinburgh are under funded
- Look into FOI re amount of money awarded to schools out of communities and families budget – CD to look into this
- All parent councils should be lobbying for consultation and engagement
- Pupil Equity fund money is based on free school meals
- LM to respond to article with concern and parent council may need to revisit before next meeting – will write to all councillors, community councils and MSP's
- Music budget is ring fenced year on year and has decreased by 50%

LM to contact

5. Update from Head Teacher

- Sponsored walk – very positive event with lots of parental help. It was well received and pupils behave immaculately. IC and JS putting together footage on the parade. £9k has been raised so far.
- Gala Dinner taking place tomorrow night at Dynamic Earth. Lord Provost will be in attendance.
- FP Club has funded a new plaque for WW2 fallen. There will be a dedication service on 9th November
- RHS pupil voice will be attending a Pupil Council Conference with 11 other schools.
- ET had a query about International Visits. These are charged at £800 per day but the school only receives half of this. Query as to why school doesn't get all of the money as it goes towards the Global Citizenship Fund.
- Staffing Issues – this is currently a very serious issue. There is a huge lack of available teachers and supply staff. All accounting classes from S3 have had to be closed and there is now a shortage of computing teachers. There are vacancies in CDT and English and 3 vacancies ended up with no applicants. A pay deal has been rejected and there is the possibility of industrial action. Staff are leaving Edinburgh to go where the cost of living is cheaper. EIS has not balloted but whilst teachers don't want to strike, if the EIS says so they will. All PC members to consider options and LM so that he can get a paper to council. Need to raise issues with teacher training, pay and benefits etc
- PW advised that there had been a drugs incident in school last week. The situation has been dealt with and managed but PC made aware that it will be in the Evening News tomorrow. The school have been advised not to comment.

PW to take forward query

PC members to contact LM with options and LM to put paper to CEC

6. Welcome to Ian Hutchison, Depute HT

IH has joined RHS from Gracemount HS having been depute there and previously 18 years in Liberton/Gracemount working in PE, Guidance and then a Curricular Leader for Health and Well Being. Some of the things he will be working on are as follows:

- How to Pass Evening – based on family learning
- Specific skill builder evenings
- Digital learning workshops
- Providing targeted support to families to access RHS information e.g. form filling and access to EAL
- Pupil Support – will be working with partner agencies trying to ensure that they are being used efficiently and showing pupils and parents how to access support
- Continued work on the mental health strategy. There is a huge gap between first line interventions and CAMHS. RHS will be investing in a school counsellor/psychologist.
- Ian is happy to receive feedback and ideas on gaps in family learning and to involve parents/carers in learning and enhancing communication and working as partners. Parents can email him.

7. Staff Update

Avril Henney is the staff rep for this session. She told the council that staff would be offering support to S4 – S6 pupils on Wednesday 7th November about how to approach prelims and exams.

8. Pupil Update

- There was a school parliament meeting on 1st October and the following issues were discussed – study support, mental health support, older pupils mentoring, reusing revision books in the library, advertising study support sessions
- Teachers being taught first aid and S6 also being trained

- Looking for people from staff and S6 who would be willing to talk to pupils
- Ms Menzies is preparing an assembly on mental health and a documentary will be produced

9. Fundraising Group

- 4 events up until Christmas
- Raffle to take place at Christmas Show
- Duke of Edinburgh group to sell musical equipment

10. Former Pupils

Funding has been provided for the editing suite and a new machine for John Staples. There will be a cheque coming for a second suite.

11. Queensferry Road Safety – Tony Newells and Brian Mackie

Main points from the discussion :

- CEC are currently looking at options to improve this junction
- BM is aware of the problems and has been tasked with looking at solutions. Funding has been provided through SUSTRANS
- Work will be going ahead in Davidson's Mains Park which will include path widening and better lighting
- The problems with the crossings and timing of the lights has been brought up in consultation
- Option 1 – Clermiston Junction – currently performs well for cars and any changes here would be detrimental to traffic flow. Possibility of filling in the bus bay and sharing space. The hole in the wall could be extended and offset to hide the substation.
- Option 2 – junction to remain the same with the pupils being diverted to a crossing at Clermiston Drive. The crossing would be used twice as often. If the pupils were to cross the road and walk through the woods the crossing and paths would need to be lighter and wider. It would mean the pupils were crossing nearer to the bus stops.
- A footbridge has not been proposed as it is unlikely to be used and likely to be a hazard.
- RHS Rights Respecting Schools Group could do a school modelling project
- Now that this has started it is important to keep the momentum going
- As everyone stops at 3.30pm , it has to be made possible for everyone to cross the road completely
- Proposals will go forward to public consultation next Spring
- Document to be shared and parents made aware. Any feedback to TN by end of October break. Brian to be invited to liaise with school and pupils.
- LM thanked Tony and Brian for their presentation and confirmed that the school and parent council were very keen to move forward

11. AOB

Meeting Dates – NB November meeting will start at **6.30pm** and this may be carried forward to other winter meetings

- November 26th
- January 16th
- March 6th
- April 24th
- June 19th AGM

All to think about the position of Vice Chair for next meeting

Ongoing involvement from PC/RHS and CEC. Parents to be made aware of the options and consultation.

All PC members

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