



**PHS Parent Council
AGM
12 June 2024
Peebles High School**

Attendees

Ellie Johnstone, PC Chair (Chair)

Kevin Ryalls, Interim Head Teacher (Head)

Claire Barrett, PC Secretary

Dawn Johnstone, PC Comms Lead

Tristan Compton, Vice Chair

4 parents joined the Parent Council meeting.

Parent comments and questions are shown in bold italics with answers given below.

Updated Action tracker is at the end of these minutes.

Minutes of Previous AGM

The Minutes were approved.

Chair's Report

5 meetings this academic year plus tonight's AGM, all held face to face in the school

Key successes:

- Transport to Borders College (immediate solution as response to short notice withdrawal and informed change to future timetable – resilience in future)
- Advocacy role in the provision of dedicated study space and ultimately very welcome reinstatement of LRC for that purpose
- Provided parent contributions to Communication Strategy, Behaviour Policy, and now Reporting
- Continued provision of support to young people applying to university
- Value of PC role, commitment and knowledge recognised by at SBC Education Sub-Committee meeting
- Supported recruitment of new Depute (mat leave cover)
- Supported delivery of the Careers Fair
- Supported HMIE Inspection process
- Supported projects across the school with funding from charity

Challenges:

- HMIE Inspection, followed by change in HT at relatively short notice (communications from SBC weren't always timely or as clear as they might have been)
- Test of split prelims – wasn't limited to a small number of subjects as had been previously indicated – study leave arrangements caused confusion
- Ongoing accommodation limitations
- Timing and duplication of requests for information (surveys)– inspection, SBC, PC – led to reduction in response rate to PC survey
- Complete vacuum of support / engagement from SBC – only one digital meeting has taken place this year, all others cancelled at short notice, and face to face event scheduled for tomorrow has just been cancelled too

Additional Information:

- Provisional dates for next academic year – to be checked against school calendar (will rotate across Tue/Wed/Thu)
- Preference is still to meet face to face – will explore digital possibilities
- Plan to use first meeting of next year as informal welcome session to encourage parents of new S1s to attend
- Focus of next year's support –improvement priorities identified during inspection
- Coordinate with Pupil Parliament and Senior Students to gather their feedback about where we should focus efforts

Attendance is generally better at PC meetings when they are virtual. Is there another way we could meet digitally? Free version of Teams cuts out after 1 hour. Also better attended when meeting was in the new gym and the student council attended, and new build plans were on view. Ask other students and groups to join to tell us what's important to them?

Action: Dawn to investigate another digital platform. If anyone has suggestions please shout.

Headteacher's Report

- Staffing Vacancies currently in English, Chemistry, Business/Computing

New School

- Engagement with practical subjects is ongoing
- New plans complete, further consultation will be with staff

The meeting had a long discussion about the new school building, prompted by the PC asking if there will be further engagement sessions.

The Head advised that the project team has been engaging with the school – they've been reaching out to practical (grnd floor) subjects, art/music/drama/technical. All staff questions are put to the project team. There will be consultation with staff when needed (eg for practical subjects, sound/light, technical aspects). The project team is consulting the Head when they need answers from teachers. The rest will be an info basis. There is not a mechanism to shape this further by parents. The project is on time, the plans are on the website, they've not changed. SBC are saying there is nothing more to say at the moment. BAM send out their newsletters and the Head has asked for more info sessions.

Q&A

PC commented that it would be good to tell parents that, that they are engaging with school. There could be a session to show new parents the plans, selling it, a positive thing.

Any comms about the school have to be by someone else. There is nothing new currently. The Friday update could state that the practical subjects are engaging.

Community has an appetite to understand what it will look like etc. not to change it. We could add value as a PC and work together to make it a positive experience. Building is a facilitator of a new way of learning etc.

Our focus just now is 100% about the Inspection revisit. I don't see us making a huge change to the way we teach. Priority next year is to make the BGE experience much better. We have 10 sessions next year about Learning & Teaching.

This is a different message that Lesley Munro gave us last year, about changes in teaching. Parents can have a role in communicating that to each other and the children. Already there's an expectation, uncertainties about the new school, we don't want that to build.

Assembly today was focused entirely on 'learning & teaching'. All of us came to teaching to **provide the best** Learning & Teaching. Self-evaluation is happening with teachers. I have to focus on improving Learning & Teaching for the inspection. Trust us to do this. We are looking at a much broader curriculum...but you can't do that overnight.

You re in post until end of January 2025 after the inspectors visit again. The community would like some certainty about leadership after January 25 until Oct 25 when the new school is finished?

It has been raised there is a concern about that period...and there needs to be continuity. I could ask the question. There will be a recruitment process after the further inspection.

PC raised the concern that SBC do not engage well with Parent Council - can we get together with other Parent Councils to assert our power, as we did with budget? The Chair confirmed that the PC chairs in the Borders have got together and discussed this.

The meeting discussed the possibility of the first PC session in August not just focusing on S1 parents but also an opportunity to view the plans and ask questions about the new building. Students could be involved too – what are they excited about? The Head agreed it would be good to have some kind of engagement with staff and parents to cover this as a positive story, with the plan for the next 18 months. Everyone is excited and enthusiastic about the new school. PC suggested teachers could come along to PC meetings – one to each - to talk about their subject and how they've engaged on the new build and what they're excited about. PC asked the Head to please consider how parents can help out with this.

Has the change to Borders College moving to a Friday impacted the numbers attending?

I have not heard anything.

Pupil Survey

The Head briefly shared some of the Pupil survey results. The survey shows that from Oct 23 – Mar 24 things have improved across all areas. 900 pupils completed the survey.

PC commented that the meeting really appreciated seeing these results and a 10% improvement in 6 months is significant. It would be good to have a session on this with PC, and pupils, rather than just drop it on the website.

There are 179 S6 just now. The meeting discussed the number of subjects in S6. Including Leadership positions and School Service.

After the summer Mr Reid will be looking at S1 choice point and 6 subjects in S4. Hopefully current P7 will experience a difference, but it is a huge change and affects the 'free choice' process (rather than columns). The meeting discussed the S1 choice point as it is still generally not popular with parents.

Modern Languages has suffered as a result of the S1 choice point – are there any plans for that?

Yes absolutely, it is more promising. The uptake is strong. German is back. There are 4 subjects running. We need more staff in languages.

The meeting again discussed PC meetings throughout the year – perhaps the October one could focus on survey results and exam results.

Friends of PHS Report – (Acting) Chair Tristan Compton

See report at end of minutes. Key points: FoPHS needs a new Trustee to join by the AGM on 10 September. There is a legal requirement for a charity to have 5 – 7 and we will have 4. Plea to please get in touch if you would like to be a trustee.

Any bid over £1000 has to be approved by PC as well as the charity. Tristan sought approval for the items detailed and approval was granted by the Parent Council.

Appointment of Parent Council Post Holders

Role	Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chair	Ellie Johnstone	Tristan Compton	Claire Barrett
Vice Chair	Tristan Compton	Ellie Johnstone	Dawn Johnstone
Secretary	Claire Barrett	Tristan Compton	Ellie Johnstone
Comms Lead	Dawn Johnstone	Ellie Johnstone	Claire Barrett
Events Coordinator	Gillian Moran	Claire Barrett	Ellie Johnstone
Friends of PHS Acting Chair	Tristan Compton	Ellie Johnstone	Claire Barrett
Post Holder TBC	Louise Fraser	Tristan Compton	Ellie Johnstone
University Aspirations Group	Alex Corbishley	Ellie Johnstone	Claire Barrett

There was a discussion around parents attending Parent Council meetings and parent helpers being needed for specific asks at specific times. Head is happy to reach out at PC meetings for specific help and will also add to the HeadTeacher Update which goes out every Friday.

Action: Dawn to send University aspirations letter to Kevin to send out to S4 – S6 parents to encourage uptake amongst that age group.

The Chair finished by expressing genuine thanks to all post holders and the PC for their support in the role, everyone has been patient and understanding. Thanks to Kevin particularly for marshalling SLT support. Look forward to August!

The meeting closed at: 9.20

Next Meeting: - August TBC (new session)

Friends of Peebles High School Report

(a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Why?

This is our “PTA”

Registered charities can attract additional funding

School Budgets are under pressure

Who?

Chair (Acting) – Tristan Compton*

Treasurer – David Flynn*

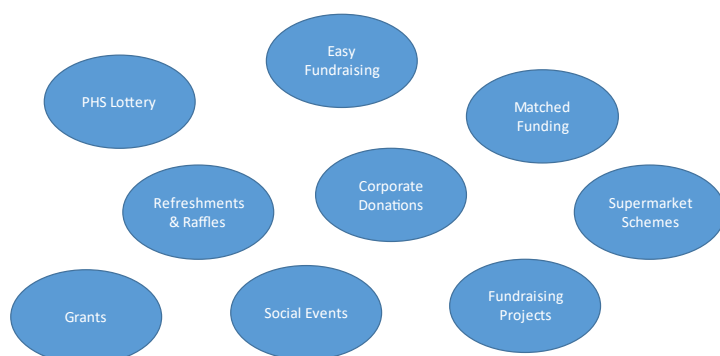
Secretary – Angela Dobie*

Trustees* – Sarah Duncan*, Kevin Ryalls*

Parent Council Events Coordinator – Gillian Moran

NB: The Charity rules require us to have between 5 and 7 Trustees

Fundraising Activities



Spending

Things that go beyond what a school can normally afford

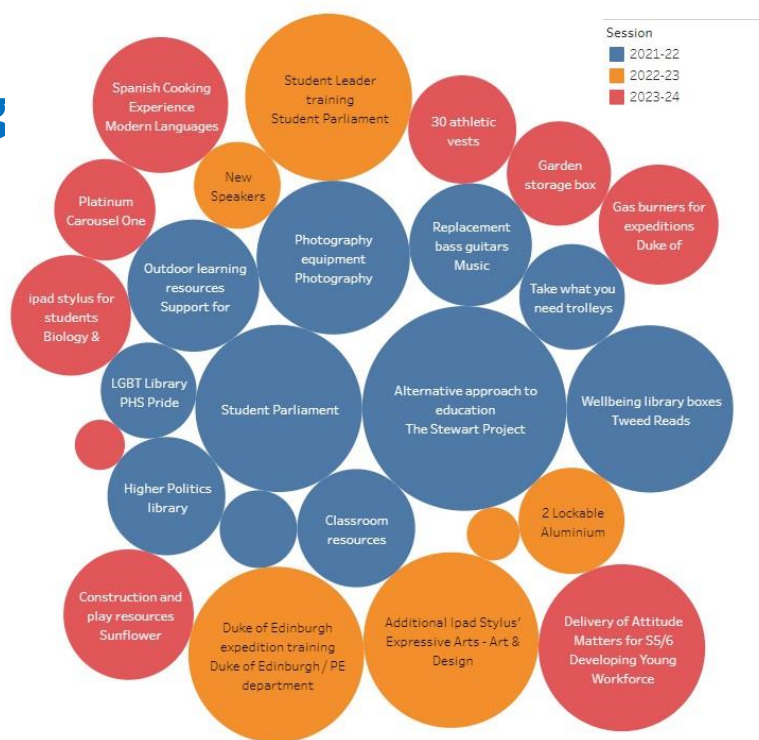
Things that benefit a wide variety and large number of pupils

Some exclusions – eg. “normal” school expenses, Trips, Sports Clubs, support for individuals

2 Funding Bid rounds each year:

Funding Bid Totals		<u>Requested</u>	<u>Charity Contribution</u>
2021-22 Funding Bid Round		£ 7,675.05	£ 7,456.00
2022-23 Funding Bid Round		£ 4,869.40	£ 3,987.00
2023-24 Funding Bid Round		£ 7,555.00	£ 4,572.00
2024-25 Funding Bid Round (TBC)		£ 8,011.00	£ 3,891.00
	3 Year Totals >>>	£28,110.45	£19,906.00

Spending



Current Funding Proposed (Round 1 2024-25)

Proposed grants to PHS in 2024-25

- £50 for nail beauty enterprise initiative for pupils struggling to engage with standard curriculum and help build relationships with staff
- £1,489 for forest schooling resources for Inclusion Service
- £330 for Linguascope digital resources for Modern Languages
- £2,022 for Physics:
 - Class set of calculators
 - Smart cart to support experiments investigating motion and forces
 - Set of Logic Boards
 - 2 class sets of wind turbines

Total proposed £3,891

Help Needed!

- Easyfundraising – sign up at easyfundraising.org.uk
- Join the PHS Lottery if you are able
- Events / Raffles – Occasional Helpers List
- Matched Giving / Generous Employers
- Fundraisers
- Special Projects – eg: To refill the Opportunity Pot
- Charity Trustees

Friends of PHS

The charity has a separate AGM that will be held Tuesday September 10th at 7pm.

Any parent or carer interested in supporting fundraising activities please send your details to:

FriendsofPHS@outlook.com

Parent Council Action tracker 2023/24

Meeting	Item/Issue	Action	Who	Update
May 24	Parents unsure about SCQF levels	Explanation of Education Levels to be put on school website	Head	CLOSED Included in HT Update 7 June
May 24	Promotion of University Aspiration group	PC to promote on PHS Parents Facebook page	PC (Comms Lead)	CLOSED
Apr 24	Sites banned on iPads, restricting research	Head to take up with Paul Graham (Inspire Learning)	Sarah	CLOSED Paul Graham confirmed school can ask for websites and apps – subject to approval.
Jan 24	Previous actions prior to K Ryalls joining as HT	PC Chair & Head to go over outstanding actions from previous PC meetings.	PC Chair/Head	CLOSED May 24: Included in this tracker
Jan 24	Sites banned on iPads, restricting research	Chair will bring up at PC Chairs meeting to see how other schools get around this.	PC Chair	CLOSED – See above. Awaiting meeting with SBC and will put to next Chairs meeting.
Jan 24	Communications plan	Head requested Alex Corbishley speak with the school Business Manager Parents to come forward if interested in working in the group to help improve Communications	Head/A Corbishley/Business Manager Parents feedback	CLOSED Alex & Business Manager have been put in touch. Parents & Head worked up Communication Policy – see April Minutes for detail. May 24: Now published.
Jan 24	Anti-bullying policy	Parents to feedback on anti-bullying policy when it is issued by Mrs Moretta	Parents feedback	CLOSED Policy emailed to parents 4th March for feedback. Feedback has been received. May 24: Now published.
Jan 24	Curriculum choice points	Parents asked to see the previous work/survey results	PC will put link on front page of phsparents website	May 24: Superseded by latest survey which compares results
Jan 24	My young person's S2 CDT class is touring the school looking for a classroom	Parent to advise Head the detail of this	Parent/Head	CLOSED May 24: Dealt with.

Jan 24	Parents' nights timing	Parents get in touch if interested in working with school on reviewing parents nights.	Parents/J Lee	CLOSED See April Minutes Headteacher update May 24: We have parental input around reporting, dyslexia, S6 course choice, behaviour, communications
Nov 23	Use of mobile phones in school	Mr Wilson/Ellie Johnstone to form a sub group of parents and staff to look at this new mobile phone policy.	Head/PC Chair	CLOSED May 24: In Behaviour Policy – phones not in use in classes
Nov 23	Could the 2G pitch be kept open at social times	Mr Wilson to speak to Mr McMordie & the prefects to discuss if they could monitor the 2G at social times.	Head/Mr McMordie	<u>May 24: Not available just now, concentrating on inside school</u>
Nov 23	New 3G pitch requires boots not standard trainers	Mr Wilson will check with PE dept if there are enough boots in all sizes, to loan out to pupils for use on 3G pitch.	Headteacher	CLOSED May 24: Live Borders Policy
Nov 23	Toilets – could we split them 3 ways for S1/S2, S3/4, S5/6 ?	Mr Wilson to think about this suggestion of allocating the 3 areas of toilets to specific year groups, as it hadn't been looked at that way before.	Headteacher	CLOSED May 24: Superseded by new policy incl portacabins and huts toilets
Nov 23	Noisy building work around exam time	Mr Lee – notify BAM of exam dates and schedule noisy work outwith these times.	Mr Lee	CLOSED May 24: In hand, exams in hall
Nov 23	Family sessions on exam prep/revision	Mr Lee to look at running information session(s) for families for preparing for exams	Mr Lee	<u>May 24: We can build into calendar next year</u>

Please get in touch around any of the issues raised at phspc@outlook.com

Helpful Info/Reminders

Parent Council Meeting Dates for 2023/24

Wednesday 13 September 2023 – in person

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Wednesday 20 March 2024 Meeting postponed to 17 April

Wednesday 24 April 2024 Meeting cancelled, per above

Wednesday 15 May 2024 New meeting date, due to rearranging above dates

Wednesday 12 June 2024 (AGM)

Post Holders

Chair – Ellie Johnstone

Vice Chair – Tristan Compton

Secretary - Claire Barrett

Communications Officer – Dawn Johnstone

Event Coordinator – Gillian Moran

Friends of Peebles High School SCIO representative -

Property Working Group Lead – Tristan Compton

Taskforce Coordinator – post vacant

We welcome interested parents & carers 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

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

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

Twitter: [@PHSparents](https://twitter.com/PHSparents) [@PeeblesHigh](https://twitter.com/PeeblesHigh)