

EYEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Present: Sarah Sam (Treasurer), Toby Foster (Secretary), Robin Chapman (Headteacher), Katherine Lymer (Principal Teacher of Community and Partnerships), Carrie Haddow, Jonathan Evans, Tom Martin, Joanna Stewart, Diana Smith

Apologies: Emily Rennie (Chair), Naomi Davie, Michaela McIntyre, Hermione Hoffmann

Minutes of the meeting held 13 January 2026: Jonathan proposed, Robin seconded, and minutes were unanimously approved.

The Anxious Generation

- Many teachers have been discussing The Anxious Generation by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, and would like to use the book's recommendations to adapt the school's rules on phones and the spaces available to pupils.
- Not all parents will agree with strict no phones policy, and pupils may not want to physically part with their phones.
- Phone pouches in schools lead to 6% increase in attainment, and there's a long-term study from Kings College London on phone usage currently underway. Pupil buy-in is important.
- Money to fund any intervention (e.g. phone pouches) needs to be found.

- School should consider UNCRC articles when deciding changes, as it works towards becoming a Rights Respecting School.
- Additional clubs and spaces would be very important.
- **Action:** Pupil Voice to solicit views of pupils.
- **Action:** Toby to ask chairs of other Borders high schools' parent councils.
- **Action:** Robin to discuss with other Borders heads at upcoming meeting.

SBC building proposals

- Three PC members attended a 90-minute focus group about the primary school building with John Curry (Director Infrastructure & Environment, SBC) and representatives from JM Architects and Turner & Townsend. The agenda was what works about both schools, what doesn't, and what a successful project would look like.
- As agreed, the PC reps highlighted the importance of a centrally-located primary school, and the robust transition schedule and inter-school events that are already in place between the cluster primary schools and the high school.
- Eyemouth Primary School's buildings are in the worst condition of all primary schools in the Borders.
- SBC would like to retain £1.6m of funding that needs to be allocated by March '27, and are keen to start work on the Early Years and Family Centre by the existing primary school.

- SBC will provide regular, short updates on the status of the project, including sharing drafts.
- **Action:** Up to five representatives to attend next meeting on 9 March (Jonathan, Carrie, Toby and Joanna have indicated availability).

Fundraising

- **Action:** Toby to ask Hermione about report for Groundworks funding.
- **Action:** Katherine to handle spending and report for SBC funding.

Parental engagement

- School photos are being arranged.
- Refreshments needed for Career & Volunteering Fair (5 March, 4–7pm). PC agreed to cover costs.
- **Action:** Katherine to send expenses to Sarah for refreshments.
- **Action:** PC representation needed for Summer Showcase on 4 June. No volunteers as yet.

Headteacher's report

- The current S6 and S5 prelim results are some of the best prelim results the school has achieved. S4 results are promising for most, but look down at the top end at the moment.

- The school are putting into place a number of measures to improve this including extra study, mentoring and parental meetings.
- The school compares well with the 'virtual comparator' in all areas: above in Literacy and Numeracy, Positive Destinations, the overall attainment of leavers, and attainment of students affected by deprivation.

AOCB

- Computing will not be offered on the school grounds next academic year, but there are options to attend the course at Berwickshire High School two afternoons per week, or to attend a course at Borders College on Fridays. It was acknowledged that this is not ideal, but is unavoidable.
- It was requested that the school do something additional for S6s leaving, to make up for lost experiences during Covid.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 March at 6pm in the staff room.