

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 VIA ZOOM



**Attendance** - Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Gemma O'Brien (Chair Person), Tom Weatherson, Michelle Matthews, Sheila Thomson, Jennifer Middlemas, Nicola Roberston, Leigh Armitage, Karen Lerpiniere, Gillian Petty, Pam Guthrie, Maru Gomez, Jane Harrison, Gillian White, Carole Renton, Euan Robson, James Thom, Aily Brown, Boon Tan, Cheryl Elliot, J Hogarth, Leri Payne, Terni Jhooti, Tracy Roxburgh, Alison, Rosalind Wedd, Irene McKenzie and Fiona Pow.

**Apologies** - Simon Mountford, Gillian McFadyen and Yvette Lewis

### Chairperson's Report

So fantastic to see so many join our second online Zoom meeting. As you can imagine we had a lot to get through. So many unanswered questions about returning to school on the 11<sup>th</sup> August.

I have been taking part in an online Forum run by the National Forum for Parents Scotland with Scottish Borders Council. I had the chance to take part in a question time just a few hours before our parent council meeting. It was a fantastic chance for all of the Chairs from around the Border schools to ask any questions they have or some of their families from their schools may have. This was what SBC based all the Information that was sent out to families before the start of school on Tuesday to try and help make things easier for families. We will be holding another forum I think on the Thursday after we have started to get feedback, so if you would like to get your say or would like me to ask a question then email the Parent Council email address and I will pass this on for you.

I have been busy trying my best to organise some local charities to come and speak at our PC meetings and tonight we were very lucky to be joined by Karen Lerpiniere from ParentSpace, who have been busy during lockdown supporting parents and families with weekly zoom drop in sessions. They have just finished a four week block of Back to School sessions helping with the anxiety of getting our children back to school and dealing with the lockdown being lifted. They are also running an online Book Club. We will make sure on our next Parent Council Newsletter to pass on all of these fantastic resources and what they are planning next. I have also asked other charities such as Stepping Stones and Meeting of Minds plus a couple of others to come and speak at our next meeting. I feel it's so important to let everyone know what's available locally to help when things get a bit hard or we just need that little extra help.

I have registered to take part in the following free online courses that SBC / Connect have made available, if anyone would any further information please get in touch:

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August at 2.00pm	Parent Councils – What's our new role
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August at 2.00pm	Welcoming New Families
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> 2 August at 2.00pm	Online Meetings and AGM'S

We discussed making our Parent Council more available and more frequent so as more families can get in touch, so we have arranged our next Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 7.00pm on ZOOM this will be a catch up and to give out any information needed and to answer any questions anyone may have before our AGM on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. I will be hoping to have more charity speakers at our next meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> august.

Please do get in touch with us before then if you need any information or help with anything. Good luck to everyone starting back on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. I am always here if anyone need to chat about whatever they need. Please don't sit at home worrying about anything, get in touch with us through the Parent Council email address or with me personally. Thank you. Gemma O'Brien



**ParentSpace** is a local charity, funded by the National Lottery. We run courses, workshops, Drop Ins and offer 1:1 support for all parents in Berwickshire and the surrounding area.

Our facilitators are all trained by Care for the Family, which is a national charity, but first and foremost, we are all parents, who know the highs and lows of the parenting journey. We believe parenting is the hardest, but most rewarding job there is; the most important job in the world. We also know how hard it is to do that job on your own. There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child and we believe it takes a village to raise a parent. So we're here to offer a hand on the journey and be your village.

You can find us on Facebook and at [www.parentspace.org.uk](http://www.parentspace.org.uk).

During Lockdown and for the foreseeable future, we'll be running Drop Ins on Zoom twice a week. You'll find the details on our Facebook page. Please come and join us.

ParentSpace (SCIO) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Scottish Charity number: SC049137

### **Treasurer's Report**

As at 04/08/20:

Main Account - £922.45

Lottery Account - £3005.07

### **Head Teacher's Report**

#### **Preparations for Returning to School**

Scottish Government **do not** expect the return to school in August to be a return to normality. We must remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks of COVID-19. Scottish Government guidance has been designed to help local authorities and schools to do so, and ensure the safety of children, young people and staff.

SBC and KHS will exercise their judgement when implementing this guidance, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their children, young people and staff taking into account local circumstances.

Prior to opening there is a planned Health & Safety meeting and walk through will take place to assist with the completion of our Risk Assessment.

*SG Advice states: "In both primary and secondary settings, the preference would **always** be to avoid large gatherings and crowded spaces and, wherever possible, to keep children and young people within the same groups for the duration of the school day. In giving this advice we recognise the practical*

*challenges. Where possible, timetabling should be reviewed to reduce movement of groups of pupils around the school estate as much as possible.”*

Within KHS, we have extended our one-way system to include stairs and movement around the canteen. Additional signage has been displayed to support our young people. When entering the building in the morning, all yp make their way to their registration class. We have removed bells to allow for natural staggering of classes being released each lesson. Our timetable has changed to reduce movement i.e. each day has 3 double periods and a staggered lunch. No year group assemblies. During interval and break, we are asking our yp to be outside with an alternative plan if the weather is bad. We are looking at trying to keep yp within their own year group when outside also.

#### Sanitising and Cleaning

When yp enter the building they will be required to use the hand sanitising stations. We are directing S1, S5/6 to use the back entrance and S2/3/4 to use front doors. When each young person enters a classroom they are required to use a wipe to sanitise their work station and use hand gel again prior to beginning learning. Every time yp leave or enter the building it is expected that they will use the hand sanitiser.

Enhanced cleaning will take place throughout the day with a focus on ‘touch points’. Each secondary school will also use Electric Magnetic spray within each teaching area on a weekly basis to compliment the enhanced cleaning.

Classrooms will be ventilated as we are encouraging staff to open windows

#### PPE

Anyone (young person or adult) wishing to wear a face covering in school will be able to do so. The school has a full supply of PPE equipment for use when appropriate. Staff have been asked to maintain 2m distance when possible. Yellow/black tape will be used to highlight areas to stay out of.

#### Transport

SBC continue to update parents with regards to transport. If the bus is a school bus only then there is no requirement to social distance or wear a mask. At the moment no privilege lifts will be possible.

#### Canteen

We will stagger the lunchtimes with S1-3 being from 12.25pm until 1.15pm and S4-6 at the normal lunchtime. Until the end of August there will be a reduced menu available.

#### P7 Transition

Our Pupil Support Team have made arrangements for an enhanced transition programme over the first few days.

#### **SQA Results**

SQA issued the results to our young people on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August. Due to the fact that SQA used mathematical algorithms and based our results on our previous years we have a large number of appeals.

Following the decision made by Scottish Government/SQA there has been a change and teacher estimates are now being awarded. Any young person who had their estimate upgraded then this will remain unchanged.

#### **Staffing:**

- Retiring: Cathy Scott our Science Technician will be retiring at the end of August. Caroline Butler will be joining us.

- Leaving: Katie Dunlop (RMPS/Media)
- New Staff/Returning Staff: Ailsa Atkinson (Acting PT Maths & Computing), Dr Brian Barrie (Biology), Liam Lyall (Mod Studs), Mary Bertram (Art), Agnieszka Sztando-Sroda (Support for Learning and Alice Caldock (English/Media)
- NQTs joining us: Joanne Brown (Biology), Prudence Horrocks (Art) and Usman Ghani (Computing)

## Questions / Discussion

Discussion took place around the staggering of lunches, food available was limited and sometimes cold. It was advised that there will be two sittings for lunch so food will be prepared for each sitting. JL to discuss further with Catering during meeting.

Discussion took place regarding what new S1 pupils should do when arriving at school on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. Full details to come out to parents, awaiting finalised guidelines from SBC.

Pupils undertaking a Borders College Course (Tues & Thurs PM) – This will be provided by blended learning online with work provided by BC. Pupils with consent will be able to go home during these times and complete work assigned. This is the plan until Xmas at the moment. Parent expressed disappointment as pupils have missed so much already.

Hockey / Rugby – at the moment there are no after school training sessions or fixtures.

PE – Is this needed for first day? It was agreed that S1's do not need to bring PE kit for the first day. Senior pupils that have a PE subject should bring the appropriate kit with them.

Parent enquired if Music Instructors would be in school? This would need to be investigated and parents will be advised.

Parent enquired whether help sessions / study sessions will be running – JL indicated that these are run by staff voluntarily however they are keen to get these up and running again. Further discussion required following directive from SBC.

Pupils have developed a new way of learning, how can we nurture this? We are not able to return to what we had previously.

More discussion took place around the first day back and how this will look. Full details to come out in the weekly update on Friday. This will also be sent to new S1 parents too.

Discussed around communication, having more meetings – monthly? Newsletters issued monthly?

Discussion took place regarding the SQA exam results, these are still being analysed however:

- \* 73% of our estimated have been accepted
- \* N5 grades up slightly
- \* Higher was slightly disappointing
- \* English – good results
- \* Maths – disappointing
- \* 329 grades can be appealed, tight deadlines for submitting appeals

JL to update PC on how the appeals process went and what this look like for KHS?

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**Catch Up** - Tuesday 25/08/20 at 7.00pm via Zoom

**AGM** - Tuesday 08/09/20 at 7.00pm via Zoom