

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2020 VIA ZOOM



Attendance - Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Gemma O'Brien (Chair Person), Irene McKenzie, Gillian McFadyen, Lee Armitage, Ali Wilson, Ally Brown, Allyson Jeffrey, Carole Renton, Allan Connell, Jennifer Middlemiss, Maru Gomez, Pam Guthrie, Sharon Dalziel, Simon Mountford, Sonya Nairn and Michelle Matthews.

Apologies - Avril Marriot.

Chairperson's Report

As most of you will have seen the newsletter we started to do last month as a way of getting in touch with all families during lockdown. We also started up a Parent Council email address to make it easier for families to get any questions, ideas, worries and suggestions to us quicker, rather than having to go through the school. I hope this has helped everyone. I do hope that other parents will come forward and have a go at writing something for the newsletter so as it's not just myself rambling on. I had come up with these ideas before lockdown had even made a start way back in February and I was going to discuss them at the Parent Council meeting in March however due to COVID this did not take place. One of the other things that I thought may benefit families was a relaxed coffee/tea session somewhere other than the school, so anyone who did not feel comfortable coming into the school may like to come and discuss anything that they may want advice on with myself or someone else from the Parent Council. Hopefully we can set this up fairly soon. Please let me know if anyone would like to help set this up?

I have had a few parents/carers coming to me with ideas that they think would help benefit the children starting back in August some of which are:

Hopefully getting the children together before August in their classes so they can meet in person the people who will be with them when they start. Clearly at the safe distance. This is still to be discussed.

A virtual discussion wall full of anonymous ideas, worries, things pupils are looking forward to, things that are making them anxious, things that they can't wait to start, anything really that the pupils want to send in to see if anyone else is thinking / feeling the same. We as staff can reply on the wall with ideas or helpful tips or resources to help the pupils. Please get in touch and let us know what you think?

More contact from teachers/staff for the pupils to help with teaching, this needs to be discussed more.

Please if anyone would like to get in touch with anything they think might help with the start back in August just use the Parent Council email address or get in touch with myself.

I would like to arrange for a few charities / organisations to come and tell our families a little bit about what they do and what they have been doing though out lockdown to help families and young people. I am trying to get this organised for our next Parent Council meeting in August. I think this will help people find out what available to them.

In February it was discussed about a change in Treasurer to which we met with Avril Marriot. This would have been discussed at the Parent Council meeting in March but as I said this did not happen. Hopefully we can discuss this at our next meeting when Jane and Avril can be in attendance.

I would like to finish with a massive thank you to everyone who attended our very first online Zoom Parent Council meeting, it was a great success and I have a feeling that this will be the way to go forward in the future. Also a huge thanks to everyone who has been in contact through the new parent council email wishing me well and commenting about the newsletter, it is very much appreciated.

I am looking forward to getting our meeting back on track and getting to know more parents and carers through the Parent Council. Thank you. Gemma O'Brien

Head Teacher's Report

As a HT, the last few months have been one of the most challenging of my career and I would like to begin this report to say thank you:

- Throughout the past 3 months, staff within KHS have continued to prepare, deliver and support the learning of our young people. For some the transition to remote learning has resulted in staff having to quickly upskill themselves in the use of ICT and worked very hard to engage our young people. Thank you.
- Our young people have continued to engage with the learning and produced some amazing examples of work. Well done and thank you.
- Our parents/carers and wider community who continue to support our young people and school. Much appreciated and thank you.

SBC are managing the overarching education recovery plans and all initial communications to parents will come from SBC centrally via Groupcall and via their website. As a school we will provide details on specific arrangements as and when the plans and model are finalised. Therefore I am unable to provide further detail at this time. Please be assured that both SBC and KHS are absolutely committed to ensuring that all parents have information before 11th August.

Remote Learning:

- Via our INSPIRE Learning programme we have been able to provide learning and support throughout lockdown.
- We have used Show My Homework (SMH) to provide notifications that work has been set and Microsoft Teams to assign work on a regular basis for all subjects
- SBC have asked every school to priorities key families with regards to regular contact. Our Pupil Support Team have been in regular contact with approx. 80 young people every week either via phone, email or door step visits. They have provided support with H & WB, someone to talk with, technical issues, encouragement or explanation of work set. Due to only Pupil Support and SLT having access to work phones and contact details the majority of our young people have been in dialogue with individual subject teachers via email and messages through Teams.
- Through SMH, we have been running weekly reports to support our young people with engagement with learning. This allows us to target support by following up conversations with

those YP who have not been able to complete work either due to IT issues, struggling to submit the work or just not sure what is it they are being asked to do.

- Subject teachers have been providing regular feedback on the work that has been submitted and answering emails from YP on a daily basis.
- Our Seniors moved onto their new timetable early. We are using Teams to set work. This is also monitored weekly and supportive emails to home have been issued if a YP is struggling to complete the work.
- Over the last 3 months we have used a range of survey to gather feedback:
 - Staff - what support they require and what IT platforms that are using on a regular basis
 - Parents - Using our monthly newsletter to share our survey on home learning views
 - YP - regular H & WB surveys with follow up by Pupil Support Team. SHINE CovisTeens is a national survey
- Looking forward to August
 - Transition: June will allow staff back into the building to prepare for our return. S6 invited into school to return textbooks and iPad. Enhanced P7 transition visits.
 - Transfer: continue to use the best practice during lockdown to continue to develop 'flipped learning'. Across SBC and all 9 secondary schools, we are creating teams for each subject area to support the T & L:
 - Recorded videos (not live) – research has demonstrated that recorded videos of key concepts allows the YP to choose the time of the learning and the ability to re-watch as often as required
 - Range of resources online – set text, textbooks etc. on the iPad
 - Collaboration online
 - Discussions forums
 - Transform: ability to offer more subjects across SBC using IT platforms and blended learning
- Key Safety measures
 - Risk Assessments in place for staff for June and will be reviewed at the start of August prior to YP returning to school
 - Regular cleaning throughout the school day
 - Following national guidelines – social distancing, staggered lunch times etc.
- School Hubs
 - KHS will be used as the school hub during the last week of term and will continue to be managed and run by school staff
 - Summer Hub will be within KHS and staff from LiveBorders will provide the activities
- Schools will return on 10th August (in-service) with young people returning on the 11th
- We are still awaiting an update from SQA with regards to exam diet of 2020/2021

Staffing:

- Retiring: Cathy Scott our science technician will be retiring at the end of August
- Leaving: Rachel MacDougall (PE NQT), Carolyn Nisbet (Biology NQT), Andrew Stobie (PE NQT), Dr Claire Koita (Mod Studies), Jarrod Finn (Acting PT in EyHS) and Paul Graham (secondment to INSPIRE Learning)
- New Staff/ Returning Staff: Judy Murphy joined our Modern Languages in April, Ailsa Atkinson (Acting PT Maths), Dr Brian Barrie (Biology), Liam Lyall (Mod Studs) and Mary Bertram (Art)

Treasurer's Report

As at the end of May 2020:

Main Account - £922.45

Lottery Account - £2445.07

Available to spend - £3767.52

Lottery Prize Fund - £408.50 (Roll Over)

We currently have 54 parents doing the lottery with a total of 208 lines.

Questions / Discussion

It was noted that pupils / parents prefer lessons recorded but have found that this is not happening very much. There are not many staff that are able to record lessons for a variety of reasons; shielding, own families at home, health issues etc. The priority is everyone's health and wellbeing and family. Teams are being collated for each department over the whole local authority to share expertise and resources. There has been a mixed response however the point is taken on board, how do we move forward? Getting staff up to speed is a priority.

Many families are reporting that Broadband issues are causing problems / delays. Discussion took place around pupils reaching out to school for help and staff making contact with families. It was suggested that MS Teams / Zoom be used for lessons however due to child protection guidelines this is not possible. Parent requested clarity that this is the case?

On return to school each pupil will have face to face contact with staff.

Cllr S Mountford needed to leave the meeting however expressed his thanks for all the work the school and everyone has been doing in these challenging times. He will feedback from the meeting to the other Cllrs.

New S1 parent was impressed, people are making a real effort. However there are concerns around P7 transition, who their Pastoral teacher is, who is in their class? Would it be possible to bring new S1's in first, how can we aid a smooth transition?

Discussion took place around what the return to school will be like, this is very much still in the planning stages and we are unable to give definitive answers at the moment. Staff have been in school looking at how we can make the return to school work and be as safe as possible. We are awaiting guidelines from SQA, there has to be significant changes as we cannot deliver the course as we have been doing in this new situation.

Discussion took place and it was felt the 'virtual meeting' was a very good way to host these meetings, allows more people to join in when you can join from home, do not need to come into school. This may be the way forward for future meetings.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 04/08/20 at 7.00pm