

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019



**Attendance** - Gemma O'Brien (Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Tom Weatherston (Councillor), Dean Weatherston (Provost), Lee Armitage, Gillian McFadyen, Pam Guthrie, Jennifer Middlemas, Yvette Lewis, Sera Robins and Irene McKenzie.

**Apologies** - Simon Mountford, Jen Redpath (Broomlands PS), Betsy Scott-Watson, Anna Rodwell and Jane Harrison (Treasurer).

### **Minutes of last meeting**

Copies of minutes distributed for review individually.

### **Welcome and Introduction** – Jill Lothian (Head Teacher)

Jill welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new PC Chair Gemma O'Brien. JL recapped to the last meeting which she felt went very well, everyone was fully involved, it felt more like a group.

Tom Weatherston noted that none of the Councillors were able to attend due to a clash with another SBC meeting. Generally however at least one of them should be in attendance.

Gemma discussed emails received from SBC regarding meetings relating to SBC Parent Councils and asked if anyone would like to attend. It was agreed that Pam Guthrie would attend with Gemma as she is also PC Chair at Broomlands PS.

Gemma mentioned a previous SBC Parent Council meeting in October which unfortunately she wasn't able to attend but has the information from the meeting if anyone would like to review it.

Discussion took place around the Funding Request Form and it was agreed that a stipulation that a representative must attend the meeting when the bid is discussed to give more information and answer any questions. It was also discussed that successful requests should be followed up with a report provided by pupils who have benefitted from the money. It was also suggested that sentence be added to the bottom of the form to say that the bid has only been possible from funding received through our PC Lottery and to replenish funds we need to encourage more people to join up.

Suzanne confirmed she would email the PC Lottery Mandate to Hockey and Equestrian Teams and ask them to publicise and promote to all members as both these groups have received a lot of funding in the past.

Further discussion took place around collecting in unwanted study guide and past paper books that could be sold at a reduced price at the forthcoming Senior Parents' Evenings (5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December). Paragraph put together by Gillian Petty and will be promoted in school via bulletin and to parents via weekly update.

It was suggested to do the same sort of thing for uniforms, it was agreed to put this on hold until Easter time. Yvette Lewis happy to lead on this project.

It was agreed that there needs to be more promotion of the PC lottery, utilise the website and add to weekly update sporadically.

## **Treasurers Report**

Treasurer Jane Harrison is unable to attend the meeting so has provided an update on the accounts as detailed below:

**Lottery Account** - There has been a couple of new forms received for the lottery this month but I am waiting for the banks to process these they should commence in December.

For the October draw we had a total of 57 people playing the lottery and 203 lines giving us £101.50 to the prize fund and £101.50 to the school fund.

The current prize fund at the end of October was £678.50 with November's funds to be added to at the end of the month should be an estimated prize fund of £778 for the November draw.

**Main Account** - After the recent spend of £2150 that was agreed at the last meeting the balance available is currently just over £2000 pounds.

No bids received for review.

## **Head Teachers Report**

See attached report.

Tom Weatherston advised that he was disappointed when he discovered that the Apple Pens were not included within the INSPIRE roll out. The demonstration he attended included these and felt they would benefit the youngsters.

Jill intimated that now the roll out has been completed we are look at the next steps. Getting information out to parents, how can you help your young person at home?

Jill advised that SBC are looking at the introduction of 'Show My Homework', this would be a 3 year license for all secondary schools. It is a web based portal that homework is loaded onto and pupils can access via their iPad. Parents can get notifications of homework assigned on their phones.

KHS Staff are getting ongoing training and development to make the best use of the iPads for teaching and learning. It was suggested that parents would like a timeline of when this will happen. When will teachers be up to speed?

Jill showed the meeting some of the features of the iPad to the meeting, discussion took place around 'Teams'. Drop in sessions for parents would be a good way to get information, help so that they can assist young people.

It was felt that parents will be to access information rather than waiting on a tracking report, this will be a more personal and will share information regularly.

It was requested that parents be given a basic user guide to allow them to get started and know what they are looking for and what information is available.

Discussion took place round staffing at KHS. What can we do to attract teachers to KHS? Development of student teachers – give them a positive experience.

Priority is given to senior classes – develop the resources / utilise iPads.

Seminar Room is now being used in conjunction with college so pupils can link in without any travelling. This is much more efficient use of youngster's time.

Building relationships with industry in the area, all 9 secondary schools are joining together to develop further pathways for our young people.

SBC have brought in John Butcher as a Consultant and is working with all the SLT's and well as a new QIO Bruce Robertson who is focused on teaching and learning.

Will there be study leave for the S4-S6 pupils? Jill confirmed that a discussion has not been made as yet however if we do give study leave we would be in the minority as more high schools in the authority do not. It is felt that there are benefits to both giving and not giving study leave.

A request has been submitted to have My SQA loaded onto the iPads with will give the young people all the information needed including exam timetable.

Gillian McFadyen expressed her thanks from the Equestrian Team for the money they received towards the recent NSEA Championships. The team was very successful however this is a major undertaking and cost approximately £6000 this year so the contribution was greatly appreciated.

Discussion took place regarding PC providing refreshments at this year's school show 'Bugsy Malone' on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. This will be covered by Gillian, Yvette and Irene.

A suggestion was made to have a raffle at the show and Gillian mentioned that traybake/tablet always goes down well as another opportunity to raise funds.

As this show is running there will be no Xmas Concert this year.

Update was received on the Eco Committee – they are meeting with Catering to discuss lunchtimes.

It was noted that the Canteen is not big enough for all pupils and with the weather turning colder we need to look at alternative locations possibly the Assembly Hall although no food/drink allowed. We could show movies for pupils once they have eaten. Just had an update from the Co-op at Highcroft to say that pupils are no longer allowed in during school times without being accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 29/01/20 at 6.30pm



**KELSO HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Head Teacher's Report**

**UPDATE**

**Whole School Matters**

- **Inspire Learning**

Following a very successful and well attended parent information sessions, the INSPIRE Learning team issued the ipads to every young person within the school in October. Feedback from young people and staff has been positive with more subjects discovering different ways to use the technology in class to enhance the learning eg TEAMS, Classroom, Quizzes etc

There is an ongoing staff training programme throughout this session and our middle leaderships will be working with Apple Education.

- **Communication with Home**

School Reports: New package being used across Scotland, these planned reports were to include comments of strengths and next steps, level achieved and engagement with level.

Following our initial tracking reports for S2 and our evaluation of these we have agreed to not include further comments. Instead we will use the ipads to record ongoing progress within each subject area. This would allow staff and young people to share work and provide updates on a regular basis.

- **Homework**

Scottish Borders Council have purchased a three year license for Show My Homework. This is a web based product that will allow our staff to set homework and deadline notifications will be shared with the young people and parents/carers. Roll out is expected some point in the New Year.

**School Achievements**

- **Leaders with Vision – Holocaust Education at KHS**

In 2017, our teacher of History/Leadership Ms Curran was tasked with creating a leadership Academy at Kelso High School. The purpose of the Academy was to educate and empower our junior pupils in a bid to enhance them academically and improve future pathways. The makeup of the S1 course was threefold, to create leaders of learning, to nurture pupils health and wellbeing via resilience training and lastly to awaken an entrepreneurial spirit with involvement in the Micro-Tyco programme. Our S1 course was very well received and so she proposed to extend the academy to our S2 cohort. Last session (2018-19) Ms Curran launched her second leadership course to over one hundred S2 pupils at KHS. This afforded her the opportunity to further

develop the pupil's leadership and citizenship skills. The learners explored a number of key areas including, discrimination, sectarianism, genocide, sustainability and SDG's. Whilst researching some of these key issues she came across the Vision Schools Scotland programme and in consultation with the senior leadership team it was decided that we apply for the Vision award.

A Vision school is a school which is dedicated to Holocaust education, providing learners with the opportunity to learn about and from the Holocaust. Vision Schools Scotland aim to promote excellence in Holocaust education by:

- *identifying and rewarding schools who demonstrate innovation and good practice in this area.*
- *encouraging the sharing of good practice of school based Holocaust education.*
- *promoting the importance of Continued Professional Learning in Holocaust education for Scottish teachers, helping them develop confidence and proficiency in Holocaust teaching.*

For more information see the following site:

<https://www.uws.ac.uk/research/research-impact-influence/holocaust-education-vision-schools-scotland/>

As the lead teacher responsible for overseeing the schools application to Vision Schools Ms Curran was delighted to find out that we had been successful in our application and that we would be awarded with a Level 1 award for our contribution to Holocaust education.

On the 7th November, Ms Curran was thrilled to pick up the award at a ceremony in the Scottish Parliament. We were only one of eight schools in Scotland to receive the award. Going forward it is our desire to build on this success, with aspirations to achieve level 2 status in the near future.

- **Rotary Competitions – Music & Young Chef**

We held the young musician competition in the music department within KHS this month. Some great performances which were well received by the judges and a small audience.

Congratulations to Josie who came first and will go to the regional finals on 24th of Jan.

Another exciting opportunity for our young people was the Young Chef competition. Standard was very high with some amazing dishes being cooked. Our guest judges from the Cross Keys Hotel and Borders Hotel, Kirk Yetholm had a difficult decision. Congratulations go to Kailyn Shaw who was our overall winner with Niamh O'Brien being awarded 2nd. Well done to all involved #PRIDE.

- **The River Tweed 'Pride of Kelso' project**

In partnership with local community, Floors and Allanbank Gallery. Our young people within S2 attended the final event together to watch the videos that had been made and celebrate the experience. From this event a fishing club will be starting

- **#PRIDE – in action**

As a school we continue to share and celebrate our successes. During our weekly year group assemblies, planned parent evenings, Kelso Life magazine and social media.

**Staffing:**

- Due to ongoing health reasons we currently have a number of staff who are absent long term:
  - Physics (Ms Easton) – senior classes are being cover by Mr Arnott and junior classes covered by members of the science dept including Mrs Wilson and Mrs Lothian
  - Biology (Ms Carragher) – unfortunately unable to secure science supply however Mrs Stewart is ensuring that the classes are supported
  - Art (Miss Nisbet) – again unable to secure Art supply. Art timetable has been rearranged to ensure all Senior classes are give priority
  - RMPS (Miss Dunlop) – this absence is planned and Miss Dunlop will be absent for the month of December.
  - It was lovely to welcome back Mr Stobie and Mrs Forrest. Both have injuries to either their knee or ankle but are taking care when in school.