

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2019



Welcome and Introduction - Betsy Scott-Watson (Chair)

Apologies – Jane Harrison (Treasurer), Jen Redpath (Broomlands PS), Euan Robson and Simon Mountford.

Minutes of last meeting

Copies of minutes distributed for review individually.

Chairperson's Remarks

Fundraising - there are many funding sources available that the Parent Council could apply. We need volunteers that are good at filling in application forms. Tom Weatherston advised that the council employ people to help access funding (Grant Officers), he will advise names to contact. PC to come up with a plan, contact grant officers and they will help to access suitable funds available and fill out the necessary paperwork.

BS-W requested ideas of what we would like to do to fundraise – something big!
Discussion took place around what we could do and suggestions to look at what other schools are doing, JGS have a presentation, prom dress swap, cooking meals and Earlston have project with alumni.

It was suggested that before we decide on a big fundraising event that we decide what exactly we are fundraising for? Parents need to know where money is going to, what the aim is and how they need to get there.

Suggestions for ways money to be spent:

- Cabinet in school foyer – made locally, bespoke request
- Trip
- Topping up the school hardship account

Discussion took place around having a big event in April to fundraise, it was agreed a separate meeting should be arrange to discuss further.

Mrs Changleng gave an update on KHS Library. Discussion took place around a parental volunteer rota to help in the Library, potential to extend to the community, S6 pupils, SfL dept etc.

Parental Engagement Presentation by Mr Connell.

Head Teachers Report

- **Whole School Matters**

S3 Parent Interviews – members of SLT have held successful meeting with our young people in S3 along with their parents to discuss Senior Phase. Positive process.

Senior Prelims – exemplar behaviour and impressed with the number of young people who are coming into school to see staff and study.

Use of IRIS – more departments are using this tool to assist with evaluating the learning and teaching within their classroom.

After school detentions – following discussion with staff and young people this is one of our consequences for our YP who do not follow our school rules. Very small minority and will be for 30 mins after school on a Wednesday or Friday however for our bus pupils arrangements can be made to complete this time during a lunchtime.

- **School Achievements**

GTCS Professional Learning Award – National Improvement Framework, Kelso High School is highlighted within this document. GTCS framework, presenting at Mid Lothian Headteacher.

YPI Finals – will be taking place on 31st Jan. Due to our success, KHS have been asked to open this event to schools across East Lothian, Mid Lothian and SBC.

- **Staffing**

- Art – PT Ms Bonnar is now on maternity leave and Acting PT post will start from April
- Maths – Ms Pow will be joining KHS after Easter holidays

Discussion took place following an Apple School demo that Tom Weatherston had attended. TW indicated that this looks amazing and would involve every pupil getting an iPad. IT support for this would be separate to back up the system. Concerns were raised about the amount of screen time this would be for pupils. If this is introduced it needs to enhance learning not replace it.

Discussion took place regarding the new KHS website, could we do something big on this? It was suggested that past pupils could be added with information, 'where are they now'. We need to get this right with the correct, up to date information.

The value of the current reports sent home to parents was discussed, this is an ongoing issue and is with SBC.

It was suggested that Parents' Evenings are not crammed into one night. Contact / communication directly with Teachers / PT's / Pastoral.

Discussion took place surrounding homework, what does the school want from parents? We need to look into promoting study skills early in school or pupils struggle when they get to Senior school.

It was suggested that school planners are reintroduced. How about Tree of Knowledge? To encourage pupils to read. How do we raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for our youngsters?

Date of Next Meeting: Provisionally scheduled on Wednesday 27/02/19