

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 29TH MAY 2019



Apologies - Jen Redpath (Broomlands PS), Gillian McFadyen, Penny Stratford and Simon Mountford.

Minutes of last meeting

Copies of minutes distributed for review individually.

Welcome and Introduction - Betsy Scott-Watson (Chair)

The existing Parent Council Constitution requires review and Betsy welcomes any suggestions. A request for feedback and suggestions was put out on the newsletter to parents.

Betsy suggested that it may be worth having a 'Sofa' rather than a 'Chair' of the Parent Council. This would mean two 'Chairs' and no 'Vice Chair'. People are unwilling to make the commitment but may be happier to share responsibility for meetings / jobs.

A buddy system for attending SBC meetings could be introduced. Parents interested in being Chair could do a 2 year stint only, shadow the current Chair for a year and then step up. This would mean not being held to the post for long periods.

How do we get encourage parents to get involved? KHS will be working with P7 parents for the transition to KHS. It was suggested to go through pupils, make it more beneficial to them by getting to hear things first hand. Utilise our pupils to target parents. It was suggested that we have topic / themes for each meeting eg Maths/Eng, Homework or presentations.

It was also suggested that members could ask their friends, entice them to a meeting. The name Parent Council is intimidating.

The website is to be used to try and entice. The new website is nearly ready, there was a slight technical hitch but should be ready to go shortly. It will be easy to use and should be used to 'sell' the school.

Invite pupils and teachers to join the meetings. Historically there was a Teacher Rep who attended meetings.

Keep it simple, informal and sell it.

Dean Weatherston suggested a user panel, ask pupils and parents what would make them come to meetings? Ideally a representative from each year group however we are struggling to achieve this.

It was suggested that the AGM is very informal/casual and may offer crèche facilities so that parents with young families can attend.

Discussion took place regarding setting up a fundraising committee with reps from each year group. It could be sold to parents as an Information Evening. Head Teacher requires opinions from parents not specifically fundraising at the moment.

Discussion took place around advising parents about school trips early so they can plan / budget for them.

Jane Harrison to attend a KHS staff meeting to talk about funding available to them.

Discussion around the new display cabinet, could pupils be involved in making of it? A request could be put out on the newsletter for a joiner to supply / sponsor. Contact the Mens Shed? New screen for foyer to showcase the school / pupils. Justgiving? CDT department are making hexagon planters.

Betsy suggested a fun day in September for parents of S1/2 pupils. It was felt that we are not ready to do this, there needs to be a reason for the event.

Head Techers Report – attached.

There will be an email going out to parents about introduction of iPads, this will be included on the weekly update as well.

Mobile Phones – Discussion took place around removing use of mobile phones in school.

There was discussion around pupil reports. A new system for BGE (S1-3) is being introduced for the new session. Two PT's for Raising Attainment have been appointed to oversee attainment and highlight pupils that need help/guidance and move them on.

INSET Days – Parents would like to know what teachers are doing during INSET days. It was noted that two additional INSET days have been added in next session (20/8 and 21/10).

Friday Afternoon – How do we communicate to parents without negative feedback?

It was felt that we are not communicating well enough with pupils. There are now assemblies every week for all year groups to pass on information etc.

We should be promoting the school at every opportunity.

It was suggested to possibly have another Open Day for the community now the school has been open for 2 years.

Suggestions for a combined fun event with AGM, bring your family to school day?

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 25/09/19 AGM 6.30pm