

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM



**Attendance** - Gemma Douglas (Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Anna Rodwell, Simon Mountford, Tom Weatherston, Euan Robson, Lee Armitage, Pam Guthrie, Irene McKenzie, Aily Brown, Allan Connell, Elaine Dyer, Gillian White, Jill Petty, Leri Payne, Michelle Matthews, Nicola Robertson, Yvette Swaffield.

**Apologies** - Suzanne Cowe, Zoe Currie, Kirsty Wichary and Gillian McFadyen.

Gemma welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Chairperson's Report

I have been very busy working with other Parent Councils to see how we can build ours up to be more productive and more accessible to all families. I am holding a Teams meeting with other Chairs to see how we can support each other and share resources.

I have been attending the SBC Chairs Forum meetings held every three weeks. The next one is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and hopefully I can report back any information that will help us all.

We held our very first Parent Council Online Coffee Evening, which was a great success and I had the chance to speak with a few new parents. We talked about any issues we were having, to which I added them to our Agenda for this meeting. I am hoping to do more of these relaxed coffee evenings in the New Year as I think we all benefited from it.

I would like to share the following link with families, <https://thankateacher.co.uk/>, I think we will all agree that our Teachers and school staff have worked so hard this year to make our young adults feel safe and secure about returning back after a very difficult and uneasy time. So please have a look at this website and let your favourite teacher or staff member know how you feel by sending them a free thank you card. I know it will make all the difference to their Christmas knowing they are all appreciated.

We have started three new working groups; Funding/Lottery headed by Gill Petty, Anti Bullying Discussion Group headed by Lee Armitage and Engaging with Parents headed by Aliy Brown. Thank you so much for all your hard work and support with these groups. If anyone is interested in helping with any of these groups please get in touch through the email address.

Please let me take this moment to apologize for how the very long meeting ended. My mental health is failing and I have not recovered from my miscarriage in October. My emotions got the better of me, what I should have done was to have asked someone to take over and left. Please maybe in the future if anyone has a lot of questions, they could send them in before the meeting and we could set a time to go over them separately so we don't take up so much time during the meeting. I think an hour and forty five minutes was a bit excessive.

Please if anyone has anything they need help with send us an email and we will do our best to assist, give reassurance or redirect to the correct department.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

We have not set a date for our next meeting in January but I will let you all know when this has been scheduled after the Xmas break.

Take care, stay safe and be kind to each other.

## **Head Teacher's Report**

### **Notes from Jill Lothian:**

- COVID update – no cases as yet at KHS
- Finish 18<sup>th</sup> December – there is talk of an extra week after Christmas!!
- Parents Night – The seniors will get a full report with comments and next steps.
- Presentation night for seniors.....
- SQA – Nat 5s and Highers.....
- Staff – Liam Lyall – Lasswade after Christmas. Simon Holden – retiring.
- Physics – Online – Wednesday evenings and teaching from Berwickshire High
- S6 – planning lots of things in the coming weeks. Winter celebrations – Hope, Christmas gift appeal, personal challenges, Just giving page, collecting house points, Virtual Christmas assembly to care homes.

## **Treasurer's Report**

November 2020 Lottery Draw - numbers drawn were 13, 17 and 19

Unfortunately was no winner so the prize money of over £300 will roll over to next month.

## **Funding Requests**

Elaine Dyer (PT Support for Learning)

Amount Requested - £500

Elaine presented a funding request for our Support for Learning Department to purchase a further two Scanning Pens for use by students who have a print disability.

### **Notes from Elaine Dyer (Learning Support):**

- Looking for financial help for learning support resources.
- Pen – it can read and print, great for those who are dyslexic.
- There's 35 young people in the school that are recognised as needing support.
- £240 each.
- Handy for exam.
- Irene McKenzie proposed the idea and Pam Guthrie second it.

## **Working Groups**

Funding/Lottery - Gill Petty

- Gill thought it would be good to explain what the funds have helped recently (Mangahigh and Duke of Edinburgh), hopefully this will help parents/carers appreciate what the money is being spent on. Shall we send the letter now or wait till January?
- January – Lee Armitage proposed it and Aliy Brown second it.

Anti Bullying Discussion Group - Lee Armitage

The Anti- bullying discussion group reported back to the Parent Council on the meeting they had last week with Sophie Shorthouse (Deputy Head) and Allan Connell (Pastoral Teacher). At this meeting the Respectful Relationships Policy was discussed and the process involved in dealing with a bullying incident at the school.

The next meeting involving this discussion group will take place next term.

Engaging Parents - Aliy Brown

- Looking into a leaflet for P7s coming into High School
- Put information on the website about Parent Council
- Flogs/Blogs to share ideas

**Notes from Allan Connell:**

- Buddy system – COVID has spoilt this.

**SQA update:**

- **Jill Lothian** – well done to all the staff for working so hard. Using guidelines from SQA. Not a prelim – calling it an assessment. Change of language. S4 assessments – January – baseline, April – Estimates. No study leave for S4 – it'll be in school.
- **Irene McKenzie** – will there be extra sessions available?
- **Jill Lothian** – yes – will need to track n trace sessions.
- **Allan Connell** – Western Isle – Sign up session
- **Irene McKenzie** – Can this be shared please?
- **Nicola Robertson** – they can put notes on iPads, photocopying less, revision, links.
- **Gill Petty** – worried about depth of learning the children are getting. Wants a level playing field.
- **Lee Armitage** – Can they get a tick of sheet to know what to study?

**Outdoor shelters:**

- Funding available for outdoor shelters, Jill Lothian to look into spaces.
- Lee Armitage – Can councillors look into this?

**Inspire Learning:**

- Nobody volunteered to take this on so Gemma Douglas has volunteered.

**Old exam books:**

- Sell exam books. Jill will speak to S6 about this.

**Date of Next Meeting – January 2021 TBC**