

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

HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 VIA ZOOM



**Attendance** - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Allan Connell (PT Pastoral), Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Michelle Matthews, Adelle McElrath, Nicola Robertson, Boon Tan, Yvette Lewis, Simon Mountford (Councillor), Tom Weatherston (Councillor), Anna Rodwell, Lucy Stoddart, Jenny Mackenzie, Carole Renton.

Apologies - Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), Euan Robson (Councillor) and Ian Aitchison.

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the introductions.

Harriet confirmed School Improvement Plan and Communication with Parents will be picked up again at another meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Minutes read and approved by Leri Payne.

**Matters Arising** - None

### Chairperson's Report

Harriet confirmed that 7 out of 9 Parent Council Chairs and various extras attended a meeting with SBC last Thursday to discuss funding cuts to High School budgets / funding (in particular to the Devolved School Management budget which is the amount devolved to Head Teachers and which funds teaching staff) following various letters. Lesley Munro and Michelle Strong were in attendance from SBC, they confirmed that everything would be very transparent and they are trying their best however at this moment they do not have a brilliant solution.

There is an online survey which you can complete in regards to SBC and budgets which we urge everyone to complete. Mr Connell confirmed that pupils have been encouraged to complete the survey as it affects them as well.

Leri discussed census update from SBC following a meeting she attended. The government has set questions regarding education. This is an online format with an option to set questions. Response required per school mid Feb – March.

Training has been offered for Parent Council under the following:

- \* Office Bearers
- \* Support
- \* Strategic Planning - Mental Health / Dyslexia

## **Head Teacher's Report**

### **SQA Update**

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams are expected to take place in April to June 2022. The Scottish Government will only cancel the exams if public health advice restricts physical gatherings at the time the exams are due to take place.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has continued to closely monitor the levels of disruption to learning and teaching across the country, including learner and staff absences.

As a result, SQA is providing revision support for learners during week beginning 7 March, to help your child prepare and focus their revision, in the run up to the exams.

It is important that this information is not provided too far in advance of the exams, to ensure your child has had the opportunity complete the learning for their courses and focus on their coursework before their attention moves more fully to preparing for exams.

The type of revision support for each course will depend on the modifications to assessment that SQA already made at the start of the session to help reduce the workload of learners and their teachers and lecturers. It will also be tailored to reflect the types of questions that are in the exam and will therefore differ across courses. For some courses, this will include advice and guidance on what topics your child should focus their revision on.

A table showing the type of revision support that will be provided for each course is now available on the SQA website.

[View the table on the SQA website.](#)

Education Scotland, in partnership with e-Sgoil, is also running a series of study support webinars for learners working towards National Qualifications in 2022. Details can be found on the [e-Sgoil website](#) and you should speak to your child's teacher or lecturer if you require further information.

### **Course Choice Process**

As we begin the New Year, we also start our planning for the session 2022/23. To allow us to compile our new timetable it is important that our young people within S2 – S5 select their choices.

To ensure we provide information to our young people and parent/carers we have our Microsoft Sway, an online information document, to provide guidance on the process along with information on each of the courses.

Key dates:

- Launch of sway document – week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> February
- S2 Parent Information session – 24<sup>th</sup> February
- S4/5/6 Parent Engagement Evening (online appointments) – 1<sup>st</sup> March
- S3-S5 Parent Information session – 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- S3 Parent Engagement Evening (online appointments) – 8<sup>th</sup> March
- S2 into S3 complete course choices – 8<sup>th</sup> March
- S4 into S5 and S5 into S6 complete course choices – 15<sup>th</sup> March
- S3 into S4 complete course choices – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### **Merit/Demerit Update**

As a school, we continue to embed our system of merit and demerits. This data allows us to celebrate success or plan appropriate interventions. We plan to hold a review of our current system following the half term holiday with views being sought from our young people, staff and parent/carers.

Within the school, we have noticed an improvement with low level behaviour and our young people are responding more positively towards staff within the corridors. We are planning on working with

our young people and our Improvement Team to plan a variety of ways to celebrate success based on the merits.

This will be reviewed again at the next PC meeting - add to the agenda

### **Staff Updates**

- We would like to wish Mrs Lesenger all the best and hope she enjoys her retirement, we welcomed Ms Laura Allan to our PE department.
- DHT Mrs Ali Wilson has reduced her working hours for the short term and is only working Monday - Wednesday.
- Following a planned absence, Mr Martin will return to school on a phased return.
- Currently we have a full time vacancy within our English department. We have advertised nationally twice now however there is currently a shortage of English teachers across Scotland.
- Stacy Atkins has joined us as our DYW co-ordinator.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Lottery Account**

There is currently £2,163.69 in this account as at 4th January 2022 (date of last statement). There are currently 180 active lines and the prize fund of £985.00 will be drawn at the end of January.

Ginny is to speak to Suzanne to work out if we can make the administrative side of setting up mandates easier to entice more people to join.

Since December only had one winner in February 2021 Mrs Woodcock won £185.00

#### **TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,178.69**

#### **Main Account**

There is currently £898.45 in this account.

Discussion took place around funding, we need to make staff aware that there is funding available from the Parent Council and other trusts. There is the Thomas Maconochie Trust for extra-curricular clubs / events / projects that has previously provided funds towards Duke of Edinburgh, Support for Learning and John Muir Trust to name a few. There is also the Ray Maconochie Trust which is aimed more towards helping our young people in sport with costs such as kit or travel etc.

It is important that we trumpet the success of our young people.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting - Agreed to arrange next meeting mid March, date TBC.**