

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022 IN KELSO HIGH SCHOOL



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), G Stewart (Treasurer), Tom Weatherston (Councillor), Nicola Robertson, M Matthews, A Brown, J Aitchison, A Grainger, S Nairn, V Kelly, G Douglas, Gillian, S Dalziel, J Middlemiss, J Ayling and T Patterson.

Apologies - Simon Mountford (Councillor), Euan Robson (Councillor), Pam Guthrie, Jennifer Redpath, K Banks and L Stoddart

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

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

Matters Arising - None

Chairperson's Report

Harriet provided update following an informal meeting between the PC Chairs from all Secondary Schools. Main focus was Mental Health in schools. Mental Health viewed in terms of tiers (1 – 5) with a gap identified in between tiers 2 and 3 where needs are not being met. The aim would be to have trained counsellors in school, current service provided by Quarriers is good but they are not trained professionals. The ideal would be have a representative in every school but due to constraints (funding) this is not possible. This is being pushed forward, further update at next meeting. This is a growing concern, please spread the word. Not just for pupils but staff members as well.

Leri provided update following a recent SBC meeting including transport issues, training available (PC Chair), Resource Connect and Cheviot Placemaking (funding for community to benefit Health and Wellbeing). More information on Cheviot Placemaking provided by Jill as part of her update.

Head Teacher's Report

Wider Community:

Cheviot Place Making

What is Place Making?

People in communities developing a plan for their "place":

- What's good and bad?
- What needs to change?
- What opportunities do we have?

- What support do we need?
- Projects and actions

Should be:

- Led by the community
- Involve everyone
- About everything
- Build on existing good work
- Recognise there's no one-size-fits-all
- Ongoing – Plan, Do, Review & Renew

Why?

- Funding/Investment
- Joining things up / Everyone on the same page
- Enlisting Support
- Making best use of combined resources/capacity
- Building better places to live
- Reshaping public services around what people need

Whole School Updates

Issues: School Buses/IT/Mobile Phones

- On behalf of SBC, we apologise for any disruption and undue stress that had been caused at the start of the new school year with home to school bus transport for our young people within KHS. As a Council they have held meetings between the education and transport teams to evaluate the issues experienced and to undertake a full review of the Council's processes around the planning and delivery of home to school transport to avoid future challenges.
- Staff and young people have had to be patient, in what has turned out to be a challenging start to the new term with IT. We had the 'perfect storm' where planned activities were made more difficult by unforeseen issues with Proxy and Showbie. We are working together with partners, including CGI, to resolve ASAP. Key partners completed a walk around our school yesterday and spoke to staff. We now have an agreed plan to move forward. Alongside this we have extended the hours of our Science technician to allow him to take on some of day to day running of the ipads.
- The misuse of mobile phones within school is a growing concern for staff. We agreed with our young people that it was okay to bring a mobile to school however it must be switch off or silent within their bags during learning time. This would allow them to be used during social time of morning interval and lunchtime. If a young person continues to use their phone during a class the discussions will be held with home.

SQA Exam Results

We are very proud of all our young people and their continued efforts throughout another challenging academic session. At Kelso High, our senior students aimed high. With ongoing support

from staff, family and our wider community they remained dedicated, determined and persevered to achieve individual targets and goals.

Key highlights from our 2022 SQA performance include an increase in the number of our students gaining 5 or more Higher awards within S5 along with the quality of our Advanced Higher grades within S6.

Our young people will continue to enhance their portfolio of academic results along with developing key skills for life and work. These will be achieved by either returning to school, moving on to further/higher education or embarking on a new career via employment/apprenticeship.

A key area for improvement for session 22/23 will be to build on these attainment successes. We will also use our core values – PRIDE in ourselves, our school and our community - to build strong, positive relationships across the school to ensure high quality learning experiences for our young people.”

School Improvement Priorities for 2022/23

- Raising achievement and attainment by continuing to improve the Learning, Teaching and Assessment process for all our young people:
 - Our young people are attending school on a regular basis and engaging with their learning
 - Attendance working group along with House teachers/ House meetings
 - Positive Learning Improvement Team
 - SEIC/Edinburgh University Research Schools linking with Practitioner Enquiry (Questioning)
 - Our staff use tracking and data accurately to improve outcomes for learners and meet their needs
 - Knowing our Learners
 - Tracking & Monitoring working group
 - Digital Technology is regularly used to enhance learning
 - SHOWBIE
 - Digital Learning Improvement Team
 - Our young people have access to a wide range of curricular and employability pathways to support them in securing sustained, positive destinations
 - Life-long Learning Improvement Team
- Positive Relationships:
 - Our young people feel included, safe and valued in school
 - Pupil Voice working group
 - Resilience for Learning Improvement Team
 - Our values are understood and modelled by our young people, staff and the wider community
 - Celebrating Learning Improvement Team

Staff Updates

- At the start of the session, KHS welcomed the following new staff
 - English teacher – Miss Mallon
 - English teacher – Miss Helary
 - RMPS teacher – Mr Charlton

- Maths teacher – 2 vacancies (Mrs Gavana is covering one of the posts)
- History teacher – Miss Tate
- Modern Languages – Miss Boufi

- Principal Teacher of English/Modern Languages/RMPS – being re-advertised

- Extended Leadership Team Update
 - Curriculum Principal Teachers:
 - Mrs James (Social Subjects/Business Studies)
 - Miss Bonnar (Expressive Arts)
 - Mr Brown (PE/HE)
 - Mrs Everett (Science)
 - Mr Stirling (Maths/Computing/RMPS)
 - Vacancy (English/Mod Lang/RMPS)

Follow up from Head Teachers Report:

Cheviot Placemaking - Tom Weatherston advised that there is funding available however will require joined up thinking as there is not enough to accommodate everyone.

Tom is a wealth of knowledge that we can tap into and utilise.

Euan Robson advised that he is on the case in relation to ongoing IP issues and to bring anything to his attention.

Discussion

Discussion took place around mobile phones in schools. Jill asked for parental thoughts and suggestion regarding tackling a growing issue of pupils not following the rules around use of mobiles in school.

- Parent advised she would be delighted if phones were banned in school and iPads restricted to not allow social use when outside school.
- Parent advised she liked that pupils have phones with them so they can be contact if required however should be following the rules.
- Parent advised she agreed that they should be contactable by home, a ban would be difficult to enforce.

It was mentioned that pupils have been asked by teachers to use mobiles as part of research in class, why are they not using iPads in this context?

- Parent suggested a balance between phones in school and left at home.
- Giving parent information / helpful hints on how to deal with mobile use
- Teaching pupils to be responsible with usage

It was noted that there is a function / app available (family link – google) on phones where parent can control the amount of usage available to yp, could have access disabled during school day. Thoughts and suggestions to be taken back to group and move this forward.

Working Groups / Improvement Teams

Discussion took place around parental involvement, doesn't need to be loads of meeting just someone at the end of an email, giving opinions.

Recognising basic achievements eg kindness

Jeanette Aitchison expressed interest in being included in resilience group. She explained what she does professionally and it links in well with this topic.

Treasurer's Report

For the benefit of new parents to the meeting, the income into the Parent Council bank accounts is made up of lottery contributions. Each month, half of the money goes to a winner when Suzanne draws numbers. If there is no winner then the prize pot is rolled over to the next month.

The remaining income goes to the Parent Council to fund requests from pupils and staff for events.

Lottery Account

There is **£2,194.19** in this account as at 2nd August 2022 (date of last statement).

There have been no winners since Graham McElrath won £282.50 in the April draw.

The prize fund in September will be approximately £480.00

There are currently 229 active lines. We have had 9 new members join since the last meeting.

Requests for KHS garden (£150) and PRIDE month (£30) were approved at previous meeting. There is an increase of £16.26 for the PRIDE costs and this was approved at meeting.

Zoom bill of £143.88 approved at meeting.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND **£1,469.05** (after taking into account requests above for funding and Zoom).

Main Account

There is currently **£834.45** in this account.

Due to other various commitments Ginny advised that she cannot give her role as Treasurer the attention it requires so would be happy to pass this on. If anyone is interested Ginny would be happy to discuss what is required in more detail. This will be picked up at the AGM on 26/09/22.

Priorities of Parent Council this session:

Need feedback, input and thought from parents

Bullying – into update / action to take. Cyber Toolkit available with information focusing on internet bullying. Pull together with Pastoral staff. Jill confirmed all incidents of bullying are recorded on our 'Seemis' system.

Aily Brown suggested an opportunity to introduce peer support for parents (peer 2 peer support).

It is felt there is a barrier to parents coming into school that they felt was encouraged at primary school. More regular get togethers between parents, owned by PC.

Discussion took place around the previous Growing in Confidence sessions that were held and very well received. Jill advised there is a similar thing in the pipeline – Raising Teens with Confidence – watch this space!!

Date of Next Meeting – AGM on Monday 26th September at 7.00pm (In person)

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.