

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022 IN KELSO HIGH SCHOOL



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Jennifer Middlemiss, Dougal Coates (S6 Pupil), Dylan Mackenzie (S6 Pupil), Pam Guthrie, Jeanette Aitchison, Sonya Nairn, Michelle Matthews, Rich Brown, Rachel Hunter and Joanne Ayling.

Apologies - Tom Weatherston, Simon Mountford, Gavin Horsburgh, Sarah Butler and Nicola Robertson.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes read and approved by Jennifer Middlemiss, Michelle Matthews and Sonya Nairn.

S6 Head Team Presentation

Dougal Coates and Dylan Mackenzie from our Head Team gave the meeting an overview of what our S6 pupils are doing / involved in this year. Planning underway for various events/projects:- Buddy Social, Xmas Service, Burns Supper, Armistice and Charity Fundraising.

Buddy Committee, meeting on Mondays, arranging Buddy Social and Cinema Trip for S1/6 pupils
Achievement - Graduation / See Me Mental Health Programme
Charity – Fundraising on behalf of Meeting of Minds and YPI – fun run / dodgeball
House Captains
Socials / Prom – arranging a fundraising ball being held on 22/10

All S6 pupils have a designated time to meeting – every Tuesday. This works toward a Level 6 Leadership Award.

Dougal and Dylan advised the year is going well so far, they would like to meet open with Head teams from other schools to look at other ways of fundraising and working together with staff / community.

Discussion took place around the process to make it onto the Head Team:

Application – Interview – Video Presentation – Pupil / Staff Vote

Buddy Social for S1 and S6 pupils being held this week, Hawaiian themed with DJ, games and getting involved / to know each other.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

There is **£2,054.05** in this account as at 2nd September 2022 (date of last statement).

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

The prize fund to be drawn at the end of September is £484.00.

There are currently 229 active lines.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND **£1,570.05**

Main Account

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

Other

As a parent council, do we want to consider being more proactive in raising funds for the school through other avenues? What are the expectations of the Parent Council?

Discussion took place around more proactive fundraising. Historically KHS have been different and all fund have come from the lottery. What do other Secondary PC's do to fundraise? If there was more money available would there be a need for it?

What would be the wishlist items for KHS: outdoor seating, lunchtime clubs, trips?
Big ticket items or smaller things?

Discussion around the TM Trust funding available for extra curricular requirements.

Parents are currently not required to contribute to cost of Home Economics, Craft, Design & Technology or Art classes. PEF allocation is £1600 per pupil however this is affected by pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) not submitting an application.

Would it be possible to put something onto ParentPay for parents to make a donation to practical classes if they would like too, no specified amount? To check with SBC if we are able to do this?

Funding Requests:

PE Department submitted a request for £200 to start offering Tchoukball as part of the curriculum with the possibility of introducing a lunch club. They already have £200 to start buying the necessary start up equipment so looking for match funding.

Discussion took place and request for funding approved.

Art Department submitted a request for £100 to purchase materials for use on the Cricut machine (funding for machine provided by PC previously) to design and make products as part of a new lunch club the department is running.

Discussion took place and request for funding approved.

Could the PC help in any way? What materials are required? Donations / clothes?

Head Janitor Mr Robertson submitted a request for £100 to purchase materials for the maintenance and upkeep of the school allotment/pond which is used by our young people.

Discussion took place and agreed that more information is required, what do we need exactly?

It was suggested that the applicant attends the next meeting to provide more information.

Support for Learning submitted a request for £300 to be used as part of the Personal Development Award group as they learn about planning and making different journeys e.g. to Galashiels, Edinburgh or possibly London next year. Discussion took place and agreed that more information is required, very general request. Seems like a large amount of money, could this be done in stages.

It was suggested that the applicant attends the next meeting to provide more information.

Discussion

Inclusion – Bullying / Resilience to be included next time (part of one of the improvement teams)

Peer 2 Peer Support for Parents (Aily/Jeanette / Harriet) – utilise rooms in school.

What else could / should we do to make parents more included?

- Parents Evening – in person / online / hybrid
- After school club – curricular
- Financial support help sessions – FSM groupcall to all parents
- Freshers week style fayre / event – clubs from town involved, help from Live Borders
- Digital support café – staff / pupils to run
- Good ideas being suggested – more from Peer 2 Peer support
- Who's who? Pictures on website, puts a face to a name
- Parent contact for each year group
- Parents' Evening online / in person – alternate years?

Feedback from new mobile phone regime – S1-3 seems to be much better, S4 still a problem, seem to be attached to their phones. Making small steps in progress.

Head Teacher's Report

Parental Involvement - Session 2022-23

Improvement Teams:

- **Digital Learning**
- **Celebrating Learning**
- **Positive Learning**
- **Life-Long Learning**
- **Resilience for Learning**

We have a whole staff meeting planned for October 17th when our staff have selected an Improvement Team to work within. Each team will complete an initial review and plan next steps for this term.

Thank you to those parents who have kindly offered to be part of an Improvement Team. The main aim is to have Parental Voice and an email contact to seek views and support. An initial email will be sent from each Team following the meeting on the 17th.

Home Study

We already offer help sessions for our young people within school during lunchtime and after school. These sessions are supported by our staff and provide an opportunity to ask questions to consolidate learning

We are also aware that Cheviot Youth also offer a space on a Monday evening of a space for young people to complete school work.

Through many discussions with parent/carers they often feel unable to support a young person with home study.

- Is this something we should offer – help / information sessions for parent/carers?

Possible opportunities to engage our whole community- open discussion

- **Parent Evenings** – are these traditional evenings to 'meet the teacher' held in-person or online (or a hybrid option)?
- **Curricular Updates** – Faculties/Departments hold open evenings to provide opportunities to discuss course content, share resources and showcase possible pathways

- **Opportunities to get Involved in Clubs** – do we organise and host an evening for the whole community to showcase and ‘sign-up’ to clubs activities both in-school and in the community. (Fresher’s Fair)
- **Support for getting extra support** – Perhaps combined with the above event, invite key support agencies offer financial advice and support to help families at this difficult time
- **Digital Support** – hold a café style event to allow parents and young people to gain confidence when using digital technology

Staffing Update

- Re-advertising PT English/Modern Languages/RMPS post
- In the interim Mrs Fisher is line-managing Modern Languages, Mrs Cairns is line-managing English/RMPS
- Re-advertising our two Maths vacancies
- Appointing a Youth Worker
- Advertising Inspire Lead and an Information Technician

Discussion took place around age appropriate films, 1917 shown to S3 classes. Response from SBC legal department confirmed that this was for educational purposes so S3 pupils could be shown the film. This is possibly part of a bigger issue based on individual pupils experiences etc. It was suggested that parents are contacted and forewarned. Staff to be aware of individual needs, how are the needs of the yp - spreadsheet?

Discussion took place following the recent Senior Achievement Evening, this will be held earlier in September moving forward. New setup took longer to arrange but everything in place now.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 26th October at 7.00pm (Online)

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.