

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2022 IN KELSO HIGH SCHOOL



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Tom Weatherston, Simon Mountford, Euan Robson, John Borthwick, Allan Connell, Nicola Robertson, Lesley Copland, Jennifer Middlemiss, Louise Lodge and Boon Tan.

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Michelle Matthews, Sonya Nairn, Jennifer Redpath, Nic Moir and Joanne Ayling.

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 26/09/22 delayed until next meeting.

Matters Arising

Update on parental engagement – all staff now allocated to a team and will be making contact with parents in due course. Getting things up and running, baby steps, short term actions.

Fundraising – other ways to raise funds other than profits from monthly lottery – moved to December meeting.

Chairperson's Report

Mental Health Meeting – cancelled

PC Chairs meeting regarding Dyslexia – to be discussed at next meeting

Head Teacher's Report

School Overview (October)

Staffing

- Re-advertising PT English/Modern Languages/RMPS post – interviews will be taking place on Tuesday 1st November.
- Re-adverting our two Maths vacancies – closing date is 6th November
- Appointing a Youth Worker
- Advertising Inspire Lead and an Information Technician (Librarian/ICT support)

Events

- Our S6 very successfully organised and led our S1 Buddy Social
- Trips and excursions have been taking place:
 - Theatre in Edinburgh; Lake District – Higher Geography; London – visiting the Houses of Parliament; Edinburgh Prison – AH Modern Studies
 - Cup Games for Hockey

- Another 2 yp have successfully gained N5 Bee Keeping

INSET 17th October – Theme of Developing the Young Workforce

- Staff collaboratively worked with Skills Development Scotland to engage with national documentation and inform key changes within the work force
- Our DYW coordinator showcased some events that have been taken place within KHS. These have been jointly planned and delivered in partnership with local employers and businesses
- We continue to grow our links with local business and we welcome the chairman on SBC DYW board to share his experiences and vision for the future
- Next steps: each faculty/department and completing an action plan to ensure our courses link with business and work pathways.

Staff Meeting: Tuesday 25th was an opportunity for our Improvement Teams to meet and agree Rapid Action Plan. All Teams have agreed short term goals that they are working on this term. A representative from each team was asked to make contact, via email, with those parents who kindly offered to support each team.

Attendance

Within Kelso High School, we monitor attendance on a period-by period basis each day. This data is then used during our monthly Attendance Meetings, these meetings are attended by our Pastoral Team and HT. During these meetings we review the attendance of every young person and highlight when the attendance for that month drops below 90%.

It is SBC policy that we notify a parent when we have concerns and therefore we will send a letter home. Often there are medical and/or family reasons to account for a drop in attendance but sometimes the reasons are unknown or uncertain. We are therefore keen to engage in dialogue and offer support.

We do have a small number of young people who are non-attenders or extremely low attendance. Although all our young people do have access to an iPad and can access online learning we are also currently in the process of employing a teacher one day a week to work with small groups of young people at a time when they are unable to attend school. We are hopeful that we are able to work with Cheviot Youth and use the Planet as a base to deliver numeracy and literacy.

Inclusion

Inclusion within education means ensuring every young person, no matter what their individual needs or barrier to learning, has equal access to learning and the same opportunities to achieve. We are striving to create a learning environment that works for all our young people.

There is a Framework for Staged Intervention and we currently have approximately 3% of our cohort who have a more bespoke timetable. This could involve a 'build up timetable' – some time in a class, some time in alternative curriculum either in school or in a different setting. We also try to maximise our iPads to access online learning. We continue to work with a range of partners e.g. Youth Workers, Community Learning & Development and work placements.

As a school, we are currently reviewing our Managing Positive Behaviour Policy and using the latest research to support any changes. A key document, Improving Behaviour in Schools (Guidance Report) written by Education Endowment Foundation outlines 5 recommendations with the emphasis on consistency:

- Know and understand our young people and their influences
- Teach learning behaviours alongside managing misbehaviour
- Use classroom management strategies to support good classroom behaviour
- Use simple approaches as part of our regular routine
- Use targeted approaches to meet the needs of individuals

Respectful Relationships

SBC Respectful Relationships Policy is in the process of being reviewed this term. This involves seeking views from young people, staff and parent/carers.

In March 2022, our young people took part in a Health & Wellbeing Census, this involves our young people who are currently in S2-S6. The data will be published shortly however we are able to share some of the key figures.

The questions on bullying were only asked to our young people who were then S1-S3. The figures below are for KHS only (180 yp responded)

- 1) Have you been bullied in the last year?
Yes: 21% No: 65% Prefer not to say: 14%
- 2) Where have you been bullied?
At school: 16% Somewhere else: 2% Online/Social Media/Gaming: 4%
- 3) How were you bullied?
Name Calling: 12% Rumours Spread: 7% Hurtful Comments: 11%
Threats: 4% Pictures or videos shared with others: 4%
Embarrassed or made to feel foolish: 5% physically Hurt: 4%
- 4) How often do other yp pick on you by sending emails through messaging or posting something online? (37 responded to this question)
Most days: 3% About once a week: 11% About once a month: 5%
Every few months: 14% Never: 43% Prefer not to say: 24%
- 5) Did you report the bullying to anyone? (37 responded to this question)
Yes: 38% No: 41% Prefer not to say: 22%

This questionnaire was completed within out any opportunities for discussion with our young people. We are therefore planning on holding small focus groups to tease out some of the questions above and agree any possible next steps.

KHS is a member of the Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE), led by Researchers at the University of Glasgow. SHINE aims to support schools in promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. It is funded by the Medical Research Council (<https://gla.ac.uk/shine>).

As part of the SHINE project, our young people are being invited to take part in an online survey about their mental health and wellbeing. This is to help us to plan activities to support pupil's health and wellbeing. Our Building Resilience for Learning Improvement Team will be taking a lead role with this.

Discussion:

Fire Alarms - recent activations of the fire alarms - malicious actions. Fire Brigade and Police invited into school to talk to our yp, education and inform.

TW asked how Senior pupils are preparing in school for exams in the case of staff absences e.g. Maths vacancy? Online learning, prioritising senior classes, study sessions after school. Mrs Lothian teaches National 4 class.

Constantly trying for supply from list but don't get any responses from staff on the list. SBC need to be involved in relation packages to entice more staff to area - not a quick fix. Wider recruitment events run in the past have been very positive. TW advised to contact Councillors if help needed on this.

Our Positive Learning Team have put together focus weeks between now and Christmas. Each week the staff and pupils will be focusing on a different theme, info shared with home via weekly update, centred around our school values – Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Neurodiversity to be discussed at next meeting.

Respectful Relationships

- Revamp dated policy (SBC Policy)
- Pupil / Parental Input
- Health & Wellbeing survey – lots of data available for review
- Focus groups – discussion and reviewing
- Bullying data – pull together – how do we take this forward?
 - S2 focus groups
 - Pastoral – ideas to move this forward?
 - 1:1 meetings? S3 meeting before choice of course?
- Building relationships with home
- Buddy system is back – really helpful. S6 putting forward good ideas. Pupils have someone to talk to and raise issues that are not staff

What should a parent be doing in cases of bullying or being bullied?

Knowledge is key, let us know what is happening so we can deal with it. Be patient, don't give up on us, one solution does not fit all and if issues continue please come back to us.

Online bullying is often more difficult to deal with and resolve, it is about teaching and educating pupils.

Screen time is a worry – managing the amount of screen time our young people have per day, strategies to help. This is part of the PSE curriculum.

More serious incidents should be referred to PC Tait-Logan.

We can help and if we don't know we will ask the question.

All about keeping our yp safe online.

Discussion too place around available parking spaces in layby outside school are being used up by S6.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

There is approximately £1,594 in this account as at 2nd October 2022 (no statement has been received this month, Ginny has chased). Ginny is in process of setting up online banking.

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 October is approximately £580.00

There are currently 229 active lines.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,010

Funding requests from (printed applications brought to meeting for signing):

Garden £100

SforL £300

Music Department Mr Borthwick £795

Main Account

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

Mr Borthwick discussed his bid for funding and it was agreed the PC would provide him with £400 to allow purchase of replacement equipment for the department as required.

Discussion took place around the PC looking to fund big ticket items, focus on something different each year. Ceilidh held at Selkirk, excellent event. Carrier bag money – need clarity but this should go to local charity?

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 24th November at 7.00pm (In Person)

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.