

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

HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 VIA ZOOM



**Attendance** - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Pam Guthrie, Jeanette Aitchison, Sonya Nairn, Tom Weatherston (Councillor), Kirsty Banks, Aily Brown, Jennifer Redpath, Nicola Robertson and Tracey Patterson.

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Simon Mountford (Councillor) and Euan Robson (Councillor).

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

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Minutes from 14/12/22 approved by Pam and Sonya.

### **Matters Arising / Chairperson's Report**

Update from SBC meeting with PC Chairs, attended by Leri. Discussion mainly around fundraising and the necessary licenses required to hold events e.g. raffles etc. KHS already have a license due to the PC lottery so we are all covered. Update to come out in due course with lots more information.

SBC Bullying Policy - summary.

PC Chairs are still pushing forward on Mental Health, another letter has been sent to Lesley Munro. KHS now have 2 new full time Youth Workers and Cheviot Youth also have 2 new Youth Workers.

Fundraising – there is a Careers event planned at KHS later in the term and it would be great to have a PC presence selling refreshments. Any offers of help greatly appreciated. Any ideas for other ways to fundraise? It was suggested that a school fayre is a very popular event at local primaries and a great way to make a large amount for the PC. Would KHS get the parental support? Invitations to small local businesses. Would need a license? To get a group together to plan for longer term – any volunteers are very welcome.

### **Head Teacher's Report**

#### **School Overview**

#### **Staffing**

- Currently advertising three PT Posts – PT Modern Languages; PT English/RMPS; PT Expressive Arts
- We welcomed our new Maths teacher – Mr Hamilton. However we still have one vacancies along with Mrs Weatherston beginning maternity leave at the start of May.
- We welcomed two new Youth Workers – Mr Abbott & Mrs Young
- Unfortunately we continue to have a number of staff who have been absent long term – Ms MacKenzie (Mod Lang); Mrs Miller (Art); Mr Egginton (Chemistry); Miss Brown (Nurture). We continue to provide these members of staff with support while trying to secure supply. Thank you to our staff in school for providing work and cover for these classes

## Start of Term

**Prelims:** Our Senior students are currently sitting their prelims. This is an opportunity for our young people to complete their assessments within the Assembly Hall and meet our external invigilators. We have received very positive feedback from our invigilators praising our young people for their time keeping, politeness and diligence during these assessments.

Following the marking of these prelims we work closely with each Faculty to review the results and plan interventions.

**Positive Behaviour:** During a staff meeting in December we sought feedback from our staff regarding promoting positive behaviour and their thoughts on the areas within the school that require further improvement. Our Extended Leadership Team (PTs & SLT) have since met and agreed to split into three groups and are currently working on plans to take these actions forward:

- Develop an alternative Model / timetable for identified young people within KHS
- Plan a more **consistent** approach to behaviour management across the school, at all levels.
- Improve Communication around Behaviour Management in KHS

**Curriculum Design:** As a school we continuing try to ensure that our curriculum offer meets the needs of our young people. Over the last few months our ELT have been working together to look at our current offer compared to other Local Authorities and in partnership with our community and businesses. As a result we are proposing the following changes:

### S3 into S4

Within S4 all our young people are asked to continue with Maths & English and then select a further 4 subjects. Each of these courses were then timetabled for 5 periods per week. To allow our young people more choice and the opportunity to expand their portfolio of results this session our young people will still select English & Maths however they will then select a further 5 subjects. There would also be an opportunity for some time for wider achievement.

### S4 into S5

Within S5, those young people who had selected 5 Highers (5 periods each) were then able to have a column of study. However as a school we have made the decision that all Higher courses would be timetabled for 6 periods to provide more time with their class teacher. As a result within S5/S6 all Higher courses would be 6 periods and any N3/4/5 classes would be 4 periods. Again there would be opportunities to build into their timetable wider achievement e.g. Volunteering, Work Placement

### S5 into S6

As previous years we will always try to support our young people if they wish to further their progress within a particular subject to Advanced Higher. Unfortunately the number of taught periods within KHS will vary depending on the number of yp. There is the option to join another school via IT and we have asked our young people to let us know which Ad Highers they are interested in.

Questions:

How can we support staff on long-term absence?

Will pupils be informed if there will be work to complete on strike day? Yes – check Showbie/Teams

Are there any goals we have to make behaviour better? Structure and actions – happy to share

Pam received a positive call from a teacher of her S2 pupil saying how well they are doing. Very grateful the teacher took the time to make the call, very much appreciated when a lot of the time you only hear the negative.

Jeanette feels it is very positive and welcomes S4 pupils getting 7 choices.

It is important that S4 start early as some courses are very intensive so to get through the material with only 4 period per week will be challenging. Get pupils start and into the mindset. More choices available will hopefully mean more motivation. Course choice is a minefield so we are aiming for a smooth transition.

Jill mentioned about the two Health & Wellbeing surveys we recently took part in – national survey and Shine survey. Results to be shared at the next meeting, this is not going away.

### **Treasurers' Report**

Ginny unable to attend the meeting however sent in her report:

#### **Lottery Account**

There is **£2,084.05** in this account as at 26th January 2023  
(Balance at 3rd January 2023 £2,484.05 less £400 music department bid)

Ginny is still 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 this week by Suzanne is £853.50

**TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND    £1,230.55**

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

KHS Garden    £100 - further information required?

SforL            £300 - further information required?

Curling Team    £231

Discussion took place around the Curling request for funding, this is to help with the accommodation costs for pupils representing Kelso High School in the Scottish National Curling finals in Aberdeen. It was agreed to donate £200 (£50 per pupil involved) which is in-line with previous donations made to other sporting requests.

#### **Main Account**

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

#### **Other**

The accounts were independently examined and approved by Jackie Nairn on 25th November 2022. We would like to express our thanks to Jackie for doing the examination. Suzanne has arranged for flowers to be delivered to Jackie as a thank you.

Ginny is asking Jackie if she is happy to continue doing the examination going forward.

### **Any Other Business**

Tom Weatherston enquired about the official opening of new KHS building, this had been put on hold due to COVID. Do we want to pursue this? Jill confirmed yes, happy for Councillors to push this forward, any opportunity to celebrate KHS and our pupils is welcomed. Jill mentioned the new signage for the Thomas Maconochie building is in progress.

**Date of Next Meeting – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00pm in person at KHS**

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.