

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2023 IN PERSON



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Elaine Dyer (PT Support for Learning), Pam Guthrie, Karen Gillie, Anna Rodwell, Jennifer Middlemiss, Jeanette Aitchison, Louise Lodge, Sonya Nairn, Kirsty Banks, Aliy Brown and Neil Bennett (Berwickshire HS, Parent Council Chair).

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Jen Redpath, Gillian White and Nicola Moir.

Leri mentioned the Wellness Fayre being held by Kelso Health Centre on Saturday from 12pm until 3pm in the Tait Hall. KHS to advertise this to parents via Groupcall and Social Media.

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 26/01/23 approved by Leri.

Matters Arising / Chairperson's Report

No matters arising and the only update from Harriet and Leri is that there is a meeting scheduled in Selkirk regarding mental health in schools. Unfortunately Harriet and Leri are unable to attend but an update will be shared after the meeting has taken place.

Head Teacher's Report

School Overview

Staffing

- We will be interviewing candidates for the following PT Posts – PT Modern Languages; PT English/RMPS; PT Expressive Arts
- We are currently working with a recruitment agency to support us with our Maths vacancies
- We welcomed back members of our staff team who have been absent for a while – Ms MacKenzie, Mrs Miller

Recent Events

- **Careers Fair:** a huge thank you to the 38 local businesses, colleges, universities and training providers who attended our evening. We had a great turnout and very good feedback from both our young people and those who were on the stalls.
- **YPI:** We held our YPI Scotland final when members of our S3 championed their chosen charity via a presentation to all our S2s and an independent panel of 6 judges. Well done to all who took part and congratulations to our winning charity.
- **S5/6 Burns Supper:** We enjoyed our annual Burns Supper. This was organised by our S6 Head Team and supported by our invited guests.
- **Senior Hockey Team:** Well done to all the players and coaches and congratulations on winning the Senior Border Schools Hockey Tournament.

In-Service Day Monday 20th February

Our focus was on Learner Participation and we discussed the four areas identified by Education Scotland:

- *Learning, Teaching & Assessment*: discussion around possible ways our yp have the opportunity to influence and participate in decisions about how they learn, are taught and assessed.
- *Opportunities for Personal Achievement*: these can be shaped, designed or initiated by yp themselves or may be provided in collaboration with teachers or wider community groups
- *Decision Making Groups*: in committees, councils and other groups learners take part in the everyday and more strategic decisions that steer and provide school-wide direction
- *Wider Community*: learners will experience and contribute to intergenerational projects and activities

We also used some time during the INSET to provide and update from our **Positive Behaviour** working groups

- Develop an alternative Model / timetable for identified young people within KHS
 - Continue to work with external partners to provide alternative pathways and venues to ensure learning continues
 - Our youth worker team has established small groups of young people and have planned a range of activities
- Plan a more **consistent** approach to behaviour management across the school, at all levels.
 - Introduction of an additional demerit for general misbehaviour. However if this is used the member of staff is required to follow up with a personal email home outlining their concerns
 - Planning on opening up SHOWBIE to parents to showcase work and when required daily feedback for identified young people.
- Improve Communication around Behaviour Management in KHS
 - Increase the use of positive emails to both yp and parent/carers and use of positive meeting to celebrate success
 - Establish the 'Turnaround Room', this is a space we have established to support our yp who are not attending their timetabled classes
- Merits / Demerits – still running however no detentions being held at the moment
- Can anything else be done to advertise within the wider community – podcast / blog – any suggestions?

Questions?

Discussion took place round school trips e.g. Battlefields or similar for our yp. There will not be an S6 Residential however a day away is currently being planned. Transport costs at the moment are extortionate and make excursions and trips very expensive. We do have a deprivation fund available to assist with financial concerns, want to make things accessible for all pupils where possible.

The recent English Theatre trip was very successful, more events like these would be welcomed. Highlighted that more communication is required around items being added to ParentPay, system does not automatically alert you when there are new items added to the account.

Elaine Dyer, PT Support for Learning provided a presentation on Neurodiversity (see PowerPoint)

Questions?

The following issues were raised:

Staff should be encouraged to review the P&C database more frequently to make sure they are aware of the needs of the pupils in their classes. More support around classes / pupils, not just for exams. Passing on information more effectively.

- Mrs Dyer/Mrs Lothian explained that staff are provided with time through the WTA, and during Inservice days to access ASN Profiles through the P7C database. Staff are accountable for meeting learner's needs. Further consideration will be given how to Quality Assure impact on how Faculties support learners with ASN.
- Resources are prioritised carefully to support individuals with targeted interventions, and in class support for the broader needs of the school.
- ANA support for exams is not a high requirement in KHS as use of digital approaches are used by the majority of learners.

Dyslexia Policy is very new to SBC. Other authorities are screening in P4 for Dyslexia. System is wrong and antiquated.

- Dyslexia Policy was agreed by SBC in 2018 following a considerable period of trials
- SBC encourage earlier identification of dyslexia (P4) and this is evident in more recent data
- Scottish National Standardised Assessment is used by SBC schools in P1, P4, P7 and S3 to monitor and track literacy and numeracy levels. Teaching Staff can access class data and therefore identify when a learner is underperforming. SFL can use this data to benchmark/screen for weaknesses.

Berwickshire HS Dyslexia Group - collaboration between schools. Pupils issued with cards, would this be used/abused? Learner feedback vitally important, highlighting their own experiences, empowerment is so important.

- Mrs Dyer has already collaborated with BHS PT SFL to support the development of digital approaches. Further support is required from SBC to rollout authority wide training. KHS is considered to be sector leading with its use of digital approaches.
- Mrs Dyer runs a Dyslexia Hub and provides leadership opportunities through peer ambassadors with the aim of building a greater sense of community within the school, and to support P7 transitions. Dyslexia Hub is voluntary and rotates by year group weekly to target current issues.
- Mrs Dyer aims to empower young people to address common issues, and to build self-esteem and the confidence to ask teachers to better support their needs. Pupils are encouraged to problem solve, identify solutions and build strategies. This approach links to Growth Mindset (Carole Dweck).
- S1 Dyslexia Hub are designing a card they can carry to encourage staff/cover teachers to better support their needs.
- Mrs Dyer is organising Neurodiversity Celebration Week 13th– 19th March – various awareness raising activities will be taking place including assemblies, displays and CPD sessions for staff

Accessibility training on iPads for Parents? Inspire demo videos?

- Mrs Dyer agreed to organise a session for parents led by young people (in the near future).

Discussion around holding an event during the forthcoming Neurodiversity week for parents with pupil ambassadors to support school, café style drop in, invite P7 parents.

- Update: Neurodiversity Celebration week took place with the following activities:
 - Assemblies run by Neurodiversity Ambassadors for S1 – S4
 - Handmade Neurodiversity (infinity symbol) ribbons – showing support for Neurodiversity
 - Registration – daily awareness info/video
 - Information Hub – Foyer and Pupil Support
 - Daily CPD bites for staff – highlighting Neurodivergent Community within KHS, Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's, FASD.
 - Wear a Hat Wednesday – showing support for our Neurodivergent Community.

Treasurers' Report

Report moved to next meeting as Ginny unable to attend, no funding requests received and meeting has run over time slightly.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.