

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023 ONLINE



**Attendance** - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Pam Guthrie, Anna Rodwell, Jennifer Middlemiss, Kirsty Banks, Nicola Robertson, Sarah Boufi, Alastair Martin, Gillian White, Michelle Matthews and Gemma Ramsey.

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Jeanette Aitchison, Tom Weatherston (Councillor) and Simon Mountford (Councillor).

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

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Minutes from 27/02/23 approved by Pam and Leri.

### Matters Arising

Update from Neurodiversity week – how did it go? This was a real success, how to we build on this? What do we do now? Meeting after the holidays. Keep everyone up to date on progress. Making staff aware of information/needs available, accessibility / time, why and what is needed.

### Chairperson's Report

Harriet, Leri and Pam all attended a parental focus group with SBC as part of the inspection, this was very positive and SBC very complimentary on the young people of KHS.

PC Chairs meeting held last night regarding mental health support in schools. A gap in the support available identified for pupils experiencing level 2 / early level 3. This was a positive meeting and SBC are going to fund the equivalent of 1 full time counsellor for the region.

School Nurse Service available and KHS currently have no waiting list for Quarriers.

Families are struggling not just our young people.

### Head Teacher's Report

#### School Overview

#### Staffing

- We recently appointed to our PT vacancies – PT Expressive Arts & PT Modern Languages
- We are still in the process of setting an interview date for our PT English & RMPS vacancy
- We continue to work with a recruitment agency to support us with our Maths vacancies. Mrs Weatherston will begin her maternity leave at the end of April. This would result in two Maths vacancies

## **Recent Events**

**SBC School Review:** An update following a one day visit by Review Team from SBC today. During the day the eight SBC representatives met with groups from across our KHS community (teachers, pupils, support staff and parents) there were also classroom observations and formal discussions around the following 4 key areas:

- Leadership of Change
- Teaching & Learning
- Health & Wellbeing
- Attainment

The full report will be shared in due course, however, we are able to provide some initial feedback.

## **Strengths**

- Our young people whom the Review Team described as articulate, honest, perceptive and measured
- Our whole staff team whom the Review Team described as hardworking and committed with a real desire to improve outcomes for our young people
- Every young person spoken to by the Review Team said that they had a trusted adult within KHS
- S3 Options which are working well
- Evidence of good quality Learning and Teaching
- Developing of Curricular Offer in Senior Phase to meet the needs of all
- Some examples of good partnership working

## **Areas for Development**

- Reset of Vision, Values and Aims – what do we want at the heart of our school? What do we need to improve?
- Opportunities at all levels to lead change – young people have indicated that they want to be involved, have so much to say and so many ideas and solutions to bring to the table
- Establish clear expectations in regard to roles / responsibilities of: young people / staff / parents & carers / our wider community

**Respectful Relationships:** During our SBC visit we were able to share the process and ongoing outcomes around our current plans to support respectful relationships.

- *Develop an alternative Model / timetable for identified young people within KHS*
  - For those young people who have either no SQA exams or very few we have established an 'Inspiring Young Minds' programme that will be co-delivered by Skills Development Scotland/Developing Young Workforce/ Community & Learning Development with additional input from partners throughout Study Leave (May 23)
  - The review team were positive with regards to alternative curricular offers to develop a range of bespoke timetables for identified young people
- *Plan a more **consistent** approach to behaviour management across the school, at all levels.*
  - Introduction of an additional demerit for general misbehaviour. This is being monitored by our PT sub group with a review date of June.
  - Plans to use May INSET day to offer more training to staff to ensure we are able to launch SHOWBIE to all parents.
- *Improve Communication around Behaviour Management in KHS*
  - Established the 'Turnaround Room', a quiet space that is supervised by a member of our Extended Leadership Team (SLT and PTs). This is used by those young people who are refusing to attend their timetabled classes. Work is provided and supported to

complete, we also ensure that an email will be shared with home for every period. We continue to monitor the use and plan appropriate interventions.

## **Treasurers' Report**

### **Lottery Account**

There is **£2,220.05** in this account.

We have a winner! Rory Bell wins £1,030 in this month's prize draw.

The prize fund will start again from zero next month.

**TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND    £1,190.05**

### **Main Account**

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

Funding Request submitted by Gemma Ramsey - New S6 Teambuilding Experience at Foxlake  
Gemma joined the meeting and discussed the bid she submitted, in previous years S6 pupils have gone on a residential however due to mounting costs and not enough interest we have decided to look at alternatives. The pupils seemed keen to do a one day teambuilding experience with lots of outdoor activities. The approximate total cost for this is about £3000.

After discussion took place it was decided that the PC would fund £10 per pupil to attend this event. The cost is £42 per pupil however families are being asked to just pay what they can afford, this has been set up accordingly on ParentPay. It was noted that there is money available from our Hardship Fund as well, we do not want anyone to miss out on this opportunity.

Harriet suggested that we need to look at doing more fundraising to top up the pot. Members of this meeting already do so much, we need a dedicated team to take this forward. Possibility to work in partnership with the new S6 cohort. Harriet suggested asking around for a co-ordinator!

Open Mic Night organised for this Thursday (30/3), PC to attend and serve refreshments (Pam/Kirsty/Sonya). Suzanne to leave lottery mandates to be handed out and try to drum up more members for the lottery.

Jill mentioned PC attending the Parents' Information Evening for new S1 pupils being held on 18/4.

New S6 pupils to be invited to the next meeting

**Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm, online or in person TBD.**

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.