

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2023 IN PERSON



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Nicola Robertson, Jennifer Middlemiss, Pam Guthrie, Sonya Nairn, Jeanette Aitchison, Boon Tan, Euan Robson (Councillor), Fraser Murray, Noa Murray, Nathan Guthrie, Zara Brown, Danny Powell and Arsen Mkrтчian.

Apologies - Ginny Stewart (Treasurer), Mel Brookes and Kirsty Banks.

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 25/05/23 approved by Pam and Nicola.

Matters Arising

Harriet mentioned following up on Neurodiversity/needs with KHS. To invite Mrs Dyer back to update at a forthcoming in person meeting. New S1 pupils coming up to be included.

Request to keep fundraising ideas coming in, lottery mandate to be included within the S1 information pack.

S3 Leadership Team

Several representatives from the S3 Leadership Team attended the meeting. This group was created as pupils wanted to be more involved in school. Pastoral staff made nominations and Mrs Changleng twisted arms! There are 3 pupils from each house – Bowmont, Kale and Teviot. This is all very new! Move up to S3 has been very positive. Bags are much heavier due to new subjects/courses – jotters, iPad, PE kit etc. Discussion around lockers – most new schools do not have lockers available for pupils. What would be the solution?

Reputation of school – what was said at HT meeting?

50/50 split of good and bad

One group suggested being more integrated with the community. Enhance positive relationships.

YP lead fundraising – S3 involved with organising an event, possibly at the beginning of September. A meeting before the holidays to plan recommended. A possible collaboration between the S3 events class, S3 Leadership Teams and S6.

Suggestions:

- Fayre (similar to Broomlands) fun, family, stalls – CDT / Art / Home Ec / Fashion / making soap
- Cinema fundraiser

Communal experience – doing things together has been missing since COVID

Parent Council are happy to help in any way – just ask.

To give pupils more time to think of questions and responses. Pupils could attend PC meeting on a rotation – S3/S6.

Mental Health - Update that SBC have consulted with MYPAS on a 12 month trial from August. This is a charity working in the areas of mental health, substance use and LGBT+ support for young people. Also now have 2 fully trained counsellors. This is beginning to move forward.

Head Teacher's Report

Volunteer Fayre

We recently hosted a Volunteer Fayre at KHS where 9 organisations attended including Scouts, Queens House Care Home and British Heart Foundation. Senior pupils with Volunteering as part of their timetable attended and engaged with the visitors to arrange placements. Work Placements are currently being arranged as well.

Leavers Evening

Last night we welcomed all our S6 leavers back to say well done, good luck and goodbye.

S6 Prom

The final event for our S6 leavers to get together with year group and staff is the S6 Prom being held on Friday night at Ednam House.

Celebration of Learning – Juniors

The next event on the school calendar is the very first Celebration of Achievement for our S1-S3 pupils. More information to follow.

Celebration of Learning – Seniors

As always our senior event will be held at the beginning of next session. More information to follow.

Overall, it has been a challenging and tiring year. The staffing situation has been horrific and a special thank you to all school staff who have gone above and beyond this year, we are very lucky with our current staff!

The Parent Council knows how difficult it currently is for school / staff and extends a massive thank you too all.

School Improvement Plan

- SLT are looking at this for next year. Looking to involve pupils, staff and SBC for feedback. This will focus on our Vision and Values and Teaching and Learning (BGE). What are our aims/goal?
- New PT1 Posts have been created to focus on various aspects of school.

Discussion around planning a massive event for everyone as a thank you. Would need a large enough space – Springwood?

Parental Involvement

Jill confirmed 20 emails were sent to parents of new S2's inviting them into a drop-in session – only 1 parent attended. The feedback was very positive however not a big enough response. Need to try different things.

Improvement Teams

Due to time constraint this has fallen down slightly.

Discussion around our printing policy / guidelines. Jill confirmed the cost of printing and photocopying at KHS last session was over £22,000. This needs to be reviewed and a mixture of screen and printed materials used. It is not possible to cut out printing completely. Suggested the purchase of stylus for use with iPads. Could the Parent Council assist?

Lamination of documents to avoid single use?

Creative thinking – combination.

Discussion around the over exposure of our young people to screens. This can cause very real issues – physical and physiological.

Questions / Thoughts?

Will the Celebration of Learning for Seniors be held earlier this year? Yes this will be held early in September hopefully before young people have left for university etc.

Feedback on earlier change of timetable.

S3 Maths and English classes have been streamlined and broadly set which has made a big difference.

Astrology Club? There is a chap in Lempitlaw with an observatory.

Euan Robson passed on a watercolour painted by a KHS teacher from before the 1st world war. This would be give / sell / donate to raise funds as required.

Looking into creating links with the golf club.

Farmers Market stall – rota of volunteers? Parent Council to help with start-up costs.

Selling plants grown by student in the KHS garden.

KHS PC needs a fundraising leader?!

- Advert in Kelso Life for volunteer from community
- Jill to make contact with Colin Henderson (CBAH) for assistance – worth a try!

Treasurers' Report

Delayed until next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – TBC meetings for next session to be agreed and added to the calendar.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.