

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH IN PERSON



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Jeanette Aitchison, Pam Guthrie, Sonya Nairn, Julie McIntosh, Jo Pennington, Jennifer Middlemiss, Dean Weatherston, Nicola Robertson and Julie Pollock (SDS).

Apologies - Leri Payne, Euan Robson, Tom Weatherston and Simon Mountford.

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 16.01.24 were deferred to the next meeting.

Matters Arising

Action Tracker - review and discussion on actions noted.

Discussion around update on Neurodiversity support with KHS, Mrs Dyer to be invited back to a meeting next term to update.

Fundraising still on the radar, this needs to be picked up and driven forward.

Chair's Report

Mental Health – Looking at a whole cluster approach including Primary Schools. This is still a very important subject and is still being reviewed however there is no quick fix, things will not happen overnight. Justin looking at a cluster model at locality level. Education, Health we need all services together and involved. Jill confirmed that schools have now had training and can refer to CAMHS at school level however there are still huge waiting lists.

Cheviot Youth have a programme running if any young person needs immediate help. Jill confirmed Cheviot Youth were the winning charity of the YPI Project this year.

Harriet expressed thanks to everyone for attending, many other PC's are finding a drop off in attendance so it is greatly appreciated.

Discussion around the reputation of KHS within the community which we feel is not deserved as there is a lot of great things happening. Looking to promote the school and our yp within the community. Looking at behaviour within the school and this will in turn improve the way the school is perceived.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Staffing Updates

- Information Technician post – Dave McMillan has been appointed to this post.
- Vacancies – Science Technician, Maths Teacher
- Long term absences:
 - Miss Carragher
 - Mr Martin

Respectful Relationships & Anti Bullying

We will complete our KHS statement adding in the following views from:

- Young People – Focus groups are planned to allow us to capture learner views for our school statement
- Parent/carers – our KHS statement will be shared with the Parent Forum to ensure we add parents views into our school statement.

KHS Careers Fair 2024

This year our Careers Fair was even bigger, with over 40 different stalls. It was a very successful evening as many of our young people and families were able to seek advice, ask questions about possible pathways and careers. Feedback from our various stallholders was also extremely positive. Our new Developing our Young Workforce (DYW) coordinator Stacey Ballantyne will continue to build connections with our business partners to provide a wide range of opportunities for our yp.

Senior Phase

In preparation for the upcoming SQA exams we have:

- Provided Study Mindset workshops ran by Live n Learn company.
- Compiled an updated Study Session timetable for lunchtime and after school sessions with staff.
- Highlighted the online study resources:
 - Achieve Hashtag
 - E-Sgoil nationwide community for online teaching and learning along with a comprehensive study sessions
- Timetable of Study Sessions that we are offering during our Easter holiday

Timetable Session 2024-25

Prior to sharing the Course of Choice forms with our young people, Faculty Heads and PT Pupil Support are consulted with regards to column choices and combinations of subjects.

Now that we have completed the choices process with young people our next step is to discuss class numbers and names with Faculty Heads. The final step is to write the timetable!

All going well, our draft date for moving to our new timetable is Monday 13th May 2024.

National Thematic Inspection – Learning and Teaching in Mathematics in Scotland

On Monday 25th March, we welcomed HM Inspector and an Associate Inspector to review our L & T in Mathematics.

They recognised our staffing issues with our Maths department i.e. 4 Faculty Leads within the last 5 years, significant vacancies and changes to our team over the past few sessions.

Positives: Knowing our learners and positive relationships; YP within classrooms and the focus groups were very informative and shared ideas around strengths and areas for improvement.

Next steps: Work across the cluster with a focus on Numeracy for session 24/25; Shift the responsibility for learning to the young people; Develop the use of questioning to support our yp; use of range of activities to promote engagement and confidence.

Mobile Phone Policy: 'Off & Out of Sight'

In Kelso High School mobile phones should remain "*Off and Out of Sight*" to allow learners to focus on their learning and keep all lessons a positive learning environment.

There is an ongoing national debate around use of phones in school, awaiting national policy/guidance however it is likely this we be passed to Local Authority and the school to decide what happens at a local level.

No SBC school has 'banned' phones however we all use the policy "off & out of sight". Some schools have a policy where no phones can be used within the school building or we have different strategies at different points if a phone is being used.

We will promote again with staff, yp and parents to aim for consistency across the school.

Questions / Discussion

Utilising gifted seniors to help in junior Maths classes, possible School Service? To alleviate lack of Maths Teachers. Maths Club? AH Maths – we need to look at sustainable options. Can the PC help financially?

Discussion around the use of mobile phones in school:

Look into again – what are we doing?

Majority do follow the instructions when told to put away however there is room for improvement

How can this be improved?

There will likely never be a ban in school, this would require a law to be passed however there will be guidelines from SBC.

It is very difficult to police and enforce when some parents refuse to take phones from young people.

There is a national debate / crisis. How does the school manage this?

The physical damage caused by excessive phone use, all linked in with bad behaviour.

We cannot shy away from the issue, it needs to be addressed.

Harriet confirmed we need to set the rules / expectations and have consistency across the whole school.

Do parents know the school mobile phone policy? Survey to parents?

New S5 / S6 pupils need to lead by example.

Everyone to think about what we want to happen.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) / Careers – Presentation by Mrs Julie Pollock

Copy of the presentation attached.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 25.03.24 is £2,642.55.

The next lottery draw will take place on Thursday 28.03.24. The prize fund is currently sitting at £297.00.

There are currently 266 active lines. This equates to £133.00 going into the prize fund and £133.00 into the account for funding requests.

The prize fund of £1000 was won by Philippa Dickman in January's draw - congratulations!!

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £2,345.55

Following the introduction of the MS teams form sign up we have received **35** new requests to join the lottery!! Not all requests have been set up as yet but I am actively following these up.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 16.01.24 is £933.41

There has been no activity on this account since the last meeting.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £933.41

Funding Requests

KHS Youth Worker John McLeod submitted a bid for £68.25 to buy materials for the KHS Garden such as compost, seeds and potting grit. This will be used by pupils within the garden and allow them to work towards a Dynamic Youth Award qualification.

KHS Geography Teacher Gordon Dalziel submitted a bid for £450 to renew our large scale maps of Scotland and of the world that were previously located at the back of the school dominating the playground area. Pupils congregated around them and were often a point of discussion and they can be viewed from all classrooms at the rear side of the building.

Ann Redpath on behalf of our young Curlers submitted a bid for £160 to be put toward the cost of 4 S4 pupils representing KHS at the Scottish Curling Championships in Aberdeen. The won 3 out of their 4 round robin games and were narrowly beaten in the quarter final.

Discussion took place around these bids and it was agreed to fund each application at a total of £678.25, this will be paid from the Lottery Account.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.