MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025 IN PERSON

Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair, arrived 15 minutes late), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Colette Curran, A McIntyre, Julie McIntosh, Jeanette Aitchison, Sonya Nairn, Kelda Pearce, Kim Gillings, Doug Gillings, Steven Bell, Dean Weatherston, Kirsty Banks, Nicola Robertson, Henry Aitchison (S6 Head Team) and Antonia Nicod-Rogerson (S6 Head Team).

Apologies - Jo Pennington, Pam Guthrie, Euan Robson, Simon Mountford and Anna Rodwell.

Vice Chair Leri welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting on 9th October were approved by Kirsty and Julie.

Chairperson's Report

Discussion around the recent Internet Safety event, this was brilliant and very useful but attendance was low. This was a hybrid of parents attending in person at KHS or online via teams (9 attended in person and 5 online). Unfortunately this is not available as a recorded presentation. Some reports of parents being unable to access online (to investigate). There may be scope to have another session, possibly as part of a PC meeting?

Jill advised this will need to be at parents request and would be good if attendees promote the session to other parents.

Everyone should be aware that the HMI Inspection is happening next week, request to promote the parental questionnaire and also the parental meetings happening on Tuesday (11/11).
There has been a positive response to the survey which will shape the direction of the inspection.
10 parents have responded to attend the parental meetings being held with HMI. Any parent reps from the PC can also just attend.

An email was received from SBC to advise that there is a Parent Council Fair happening on Tuesday 11th November, 6-8pm at the Inspire Building, Tweedbank. This event is open to parent council representatives across all parent councils. This is quite short notice and Leri is unable to attend but if anyone interested they can sign up.

Head Teacher's Report

HMI update from JL

Health & Wellbeing Presentation (Colette Curran)

Attached presentation.

Discussion following presentation:

- Parent Council to back projects, more information to be shared so parents aware – add to weekly update? Drip feed to not overwhelm parents.
- Ties in with Internet Safety.
- Pupils to record a presentation?
- Roll out sleep project to older year groups – more powerful when a peer passing on information.
- Parents could benefit from learning about sleep hygiene, young people need good sleep habits, a lack of sleep can affect everything.
- Health & Wellbeing being added as a tab on KHS website? Webinars are helpful or a Podcast? Audio is the way forward!
- Catching people face to face – captive audience at Parents' Evenings.
- Put H&WB Ambassadors on the daily bulletin so yp know who they are.
- Feedback on projects during summer term with yp, possibly with Glasgow Uni?

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 06.11.25 is £1,588.21.

There are currently 298 active lines. This equates to £149 going into the prize fund and £149 into the account for funding requests.

The Lottery was drawn on Tuesday 28th October and the prize fund of £1000 was won by Victoria Thomson – congratulations!

The prize fund for the next draw on Friday 28th November is £266.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,322.21

Funding Requests

Kings Trust

Ms Burn has submitted a request for financial support towards the KHS garden, to fix up and be able to grow fruit and vegetables to use and sell etc. The amount requested is £500.
Discussion took place and it was agreed that this was a large amount of money and more detailed information is required e.g. a business plan / video provided by the pupils this would tie in with the learning being promoted by the Kings Trust. To look into possible match funding and/or a start-up loan that would be paid back.

Nicola Robertson expressed her thanks to the PC for the recent funding that allowed her to take 32 S2 pupils to a Science event in Edinburgh. The pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed the event, engaged with everyone and got lots of freebies!

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 06.11.25 is £1,012.10.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1012.10

The 2024/25 accounts have been finalised and are ready to be audited.

Please note due to a change in the type of bank account we have for the Lottery and Main account, this means that we now pay service charges for the various transactions e.g. internet payments, cheque payments as well as a monthly maintenance fee (£4.25 per account). This is also the case for many school accounts and I believe SBC are looking into this further.

Discussion / Questions

MyPass update – Quarriers service not renewed. New MyPass counselling service covers 10 - 18 year olds. The amount of funding available is not as much as promised. There will be 1 representative between 3 schools. The counsellor will be in KHS 1 day per week on a Monday and will see 4 young people.

Health App – Chat Health coming in the next few weeks which young people will be able to engage with Health staff via text/whatsapp.

Mindfulness – can this option be brought back? This was run by Beth Cameron-Lyle who has been required more within English dept. Look into training for other staff to add this back onto TT?

Head Team Update

- New seating in the foyer working well, this is a temporary measure. Pupils congregating in the foyer for lunch is unhygienic
- Look into alternative solutions – crashmat material? Tables with chairs attached that can be stored when not used? To look into costs. We are limited with the availability of social spaces
- Pupil Parliament are looking into a shelter in the garden area, TM Trust happy to support this project
- Various house events recently – football, tug 'o' war and pickleball
- S6 would like a hoover for them to keep the flexi space clean – to get costings and submit a funding request to the PC to include practicalities such as where it would be stored.
- Head Team Conference – app available (hub4action) showing all the clubs you can join within your area. HT to come back with what clubs are available in Kelso for the next meeting. Visit Kelso/Community Council should have a list of this information available. Also attending a debate at SBC HQ regarding vaping and mobile phones.
- Single use bottles in the Canteen – possible school water bottle (would require naming for each pupil to prevent confusion) and more water fountains. Investigate the possibility of getting a Scottish Water fountain?

Since staffing has been much more stable we are seeing much more trips being organised, this is very well received by our enthusiastic pupils.

Possible Lab Skills course?

Trophy Cabinet – TM Trust to contribute, Archive to have a section for historic information. To meet with Joe O'Mara to discuss.

Parent Council Focus:

- Continue trying to increase parental involvement – PC Reps attending Parents' Evenings and Information Events.
- Continue to promote positivity within KHS
- Continue to promote Health & Wellbeing within KHS
- Continue to include Pupil Voice

As always please let us know what you want to hear / know about? Who do you want at our meetings?

Date of Next Meeting

The planned date for the next meeting (in person) is Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.