

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2024 VIA ZOOM



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Alli Wilson (Depute Head Teacher), Nicola Robertson, Julie McIntosh, Pam Guthrie, Jeanette Aitchison, Euan Robson and Kirsty Banks.

Apologies - Simon Mountford and Tom Weatherston

Vice Chairperson Leri Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting. Harriet is stuck in traffic but hoping to join meeting later.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 23.04.24 were deferred to be discussed at the next meeting.

Matters Arising / Chairs Report

There have been no further Parent Council Chair meetings. There is a Parent Chair Info Session in June although unsure of the date, possibly 13/6.

NPFS have lost the funding for next year and at the moment we are unsure as to how this will affect us? Jill to follow up with Christian / SBC and Euan will also look into this as well.

Action Tracker - review and discussion on actions noted. Need to rearrange Mrs Dyer to attend a forthcoming meeting with a Neurodiversity update. Also look into wider achievements.

Mobile Phones - nothing new from the Scottish Government and SBC have left it up to individual schools. KHS's policy is still turned off/on silent and in schoolbags. Have we had any feedback from any schools that have introduced no use of mobiles within the school building? Feedback would be helpful – Gala Academy?

Respectful Relationships - the new policy will be added onto the website and shared out to parents. To include a note regarding how this was sampled in school.

KHS Strapline - still to be finalised.

Mental Health – Transition from P7 into S1 – unsure what this was - Jeanette?

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Staffing Updates

- New Appointments for August
 - Maths – Mr Michael

- English – Mr Holmes
- Biology – Mr Walkup
- PE – Miss Rout (maternity cover)
- Vacancies – PT Expressive Art

Outstanding Items

- **Respectful Relationships & Anti Bullying:** will be uploaded to our school website
- **School strapline:** Engage young people and staff to agree our strapline.
- **Mobile phones:** Uploaded to school website

Review of our School Dress Code

We have sought feedback from our young people and parent/carers regarding the purpose of a dress code and what items are important.

We are currently meeting with yp to have deeper conversations however our current proposal is:

- White shirt
- Tie (optional)
- Black jumper (currently have new samples of ½ zip jumpers)
- Black trousers, skirt or black jeans (no leggings)
- Black shoes/trainers

Senior Phase

We are almost at the end of our Senior Phase exams. Our invigilator team have been very complimentary about our yp with regards to punctuation, organisation and very well mannered.

Timetable Session 2024-25

Our yp within BGE moved forward with their timetable on Monday 13th May 2024 with the seniors returning on 27th May 2024.

Our new S6 will undertake a full-day induction programme on Monday 27th prior to starting their new TT on Tuesday.

Within our Senior Phase- our National 3/4/5s have allocated 4 period, our Highers are 6 periods (although some are 4 periods if class size is low) and our AH will have 1-3 teaching periods depending on the numbers in the class.

Planned P7 visits will take place from Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th.

School Improvement Report and School Improvement Plan

During our May INSET, staff were able to provide feedback with regards to our Improvement priorities for 2023-24.

Each Faculty is currently writing their Improvement Report outlining their progress this session, examples of evidence and impact on our yp .

To ensure we gather views from our parent/carers and wider achievement we are planning on holding an Open Day on June 13th. This will be an opportunity to showcase positive work and seek feedback on our Improvement Priorities from 23-24 and possible next steps for the new session.

Thursday 13th June From 2.30pm - 4.00pm and 5.00pm - 6.30pm

1. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- engaging with our 'KHS Way: ensuring high quality experience' within every classroom, with a focus on pace and challenge.

- improving attainment, including literacy and numeracy across S1-S3 and the introduction of Data Driven Instruction to increase the quality and quantity of SCQF Level 5 awards within the Senior phase.
- developing clear, effective systems for tracking progress and planning interventions.
- continuing with the implementation of KHS 'Showbie' Strategy including expansion of Showbie Parental rollout.
- continuing to support staff in relation to enhancing their delivery of Learning, Teaching and Assessment through use of Digital Technology.

2. Inclusion and the promotion of Wellbeing and Nurture

- reviewing Positive Relationships framework in line with new SBC framework and begin working towards achieving Bronze level Rights Respecting Schools
- increasing opportunities for our young people to share their views and drive forward school improvement.
- gathering information about wider achievements both in and out of school. We will celebrate success and where required, plan interventions for any identified gaps.
- using our core values to support the wellbeing of the school community and increasing the understanding of the wellbeing indicators with our young people.

Volunteering Mini Fair

To ensure that KHS helps promote volunteering opportunities within Kelso we plan to hold our annual Mini Fair on Tuesday 11th June. This will be held within our Assembly Hall and will be open to all during lunchtime with extra sessions for S4-S6 throughout the afternoon. There will also be workshops throughout the morning to support our yp set up their Saltire accounts to log volunteering hours.

Celebration Success

We have our BGE Celebration of Learning event on Monday 3rd June 2.30pm-3.30pm. This event is attended by those young people who have been awarded a certificate for the Highest Achiever, our PRIDE award for every subject.

Our Senior Phase Celebration of Learning will be held in Sept with families being invited. We are currently seeking feedback on the format of this evening.

Questions / Discussion

Uniform review – explain reasons why the decisions have been made e.g. hoodies = health and safety issue.

Discussion around Celebration of Achievement, this is a work in progress. Could it be done at a larger venue e.g. Tait Hall and invite larger audience / wider community. To inspire younger pupils by involving them, showcasing the achievements of our young people on a wider scale. It is worth making enquiries.

Achievements should be publicised more widely – Kelso Life / social media.

Our new Pupil Parliament are looking to buy noticeboards for the Canteen area, which they will manage, and use them as a place to spread news of achievements to all pupils.

When classes are disrupted by pupil behaviour and teachers are dealing with the situation is there a lesson plan that could be available for other pupils in the class to be able to get on with their learning and not waiting for the teacher to come back? There are procedures in place to swiftly deal with

disruptive behaviours in class so focus can quickly return to the learning. It was noted that Showbie is a great tool that could be utilised. To be discussed with Curriculum PT's to ensure consistency over whole school,

A new research project is being rolled out for our new S1's in August around device use and sleep – 'Clocking Off'.

Also introduction of 'Multiply' which is a parental tool to support our young people with numeracy – workshops for parents.

Euan Robson mentioned looking for a representative from KHS to make contact and forge a relationship/connection with a school in the Caribbean.

Our thanks were expressed to the Councillors for all their help around the Kelso Skatepark Lights group – very much appreciated. It was noted that there is still an issue with litter but this is being looked at and just about maintaining a good standard.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 22.05.24 is £2,513.55.

There are currently 267 active lines. This equates to £133.50 going into the prize fund and £133.50 into the account for funding requests.

The next lottery draw will take place on Tuesday 28.05.24. The prize fund is currently sitting at £563.50.

The prize fund has not been won since January 2024 when Philippa Dickman won £1000.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,950.05

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 22.05.24 is £933.41

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

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £908.41

The Parent Council Accounts 2022/23 have now been externally audited by Jackie Nairn, signed off and returned to Suzanne Cowe at KHS. To thank Jackie, as previously agreed, flowers have been sent to her and payment will be made from the main account (£25) to cover the cost.

Funding Requests

Request for funding received from John Borthwick on behalf of the Sailing Club. Due to a restructure by Whiteadder Water Sport Centre there is a shortfall in funding to run the remaining 4 sessions of Sailing Club. Looking for £400 to be able to complete the planned sessions for the very enthusiastic young people that have been attending every Thursday. Discussion around request and application was successful. Fund to be transferred.

Date of Next Meeting

The final meeting of the session was originally scheduled on Thursday 20th June 2024 (in person) however it was noted that this clashes with both the P7 Parents Evening and also the Hockey Awards event. To review calendar and reschedule meeting and advise parents. It was suggested that the new Head Team could be invited along to the meeting.

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.