

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2024 VIA ZOOM



Attendance - Harriet Campbell (Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Leri Payne, Julie McIntosh, Pam Guthrie, Jeanette Aitchison, Sarah & Colin Woodward and Joanne ?.

Apologies - Simon Mountford and Nicola Robertson

Chairperson Harriet Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes from 16.01.24 and 25.03.24 were discussed and approved by Pam Guthrie.

Matters Arising

Action Tracker - review and discussion on actions noted.

Main points for review – Mental Health, P7 to S1 Transition, Respectful Relationships, Behaviour and Mobile Phones.

Chair's Report

Last night there was the Parent Council Secondary Chairs meeting. As there are 2 new Chair's the meeting was predominantly going over old ground so everyone up to speed. The main discussion point was still Mental Health. Not a huge amount going on at the moment, last 3 meetings have been cancelled by SBC. KHS are keen to keep the momentum going.

Head Teacher's Report

Whole School Updates

Staffing Updates

- Vacancies – Teacher of Maths, Teacher of English, Science Technician, Teacher of PE (Maternity cover)
- Mrs Bertrum (Art) is moving to HHS
- Mr Robertson (Head Janitor) has left KHS.

Outstanding Items

- **Respectful Relationships & Anti Bullying:** Our pupil support staff will work with young people and families to complete our KHS statement
- **School strapline:** Engage young people and staff to agree our strapline.

- **Mobile phones:** Re-issue school policy on our guidance regarding use of mobile phones in school. Work closely with S1-S3 in school.

Senior Phase

A successful programme of study support was provided for our Seniors over the Easter holidays. We continue to welcome our yp to use the school to study and work with staff.

The final report was shared with yp and parents stating the ‘demonstrated grade’ for each subject. This was based on the evidence the school holds and for most this will be their prelim along with any additional formal assessments.

Following results day in August our young people are able to submit an appeal if their ‘demonstrated grade’ is higher than their actual grade.

Timetable Session 2024-25

The S3-S6 timetable was completed during the Easter holidays and so the final part is to add S1 & S2. We are on track to move to our new timetable is Monday 13th May 2024 with the seniors returning on 27th May 2024.

Preparations for S6 Session 2024-2025

Following our assemblies, our S6 have selected their colour of jumper and orders can now be made. Information on how to apply for S6 Head Team along with Committee Leaders has also been shared with deadline for applications being 1st May 2024.

School Improvement Report and School Improvement Plan



School Improvement Report

Where are we now?

Strengths? Weaknesses?

School Improvement Plan

What are our next steps?

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.

Questions / Discussion

Behaviour – where are we?

Reaching out to other areas

YP not connecting with historic curriculum

As part of the Improvement plan – open school up for people to visit, engage with wider community

DYW Stacy looking into opportunities within industry

KHS has one of the highest percentages of ‘positive destinations’ for our leavers. This should be publicised widely to encourage other pupils. Wider achievement evening?

Discussion around new session and provision of Advanced Highers – teaching time, consistency. Discussion between timetablers in other HS’s, uptake dictates allocated teaching time.

Discussion around the timing of last Senior reports with demonstrated bands, it was felt these were too late and had a detrimental effect. Possible review for next year although will depend on SQA and the process. As pupils are now able to request an appeal themselves the demonstrated band is the grade KHS has the evidence for if required in appeal.

Discussion around all learning / schoolwork being completed electronically (via iPad) or using jotters. KHS have not removed the written element of learning and is using a balance between the two. We are focusing on Literacy and Numeracy with junior school, there are lots of ongoing discussions around this. Numeracy is a cluster focus.

Looking at clusters, how do PC feel they are working? Suggested improvements? Do we need to meet with Cluster Lead?

Kelso works well as a cluster however Adam Lindsay is stepping down as Cluster Lead. Interested applicants need to apply, this would be on top of the HT role. Looking to pool our resources. Looking forward to getting back round the table with all services e.g. Social Work, Police, Health etc.

Would it be beneficial to get all PC Chairs together, however does take time to pull together.

Treasurers’ Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 23.04.24 is £2,272.55.

There are currently 271 active lines. This equates to £135.50 going into the prize fund and £135.50 into the account for funding requests.

The next lottery draw will take place on Monday 29.04.24. The prize fund is currently sitting at £432.50.

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

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1,840.05

Funding Requests

At the last meeting on 25.03.24 we received 3 bids for funding:

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.

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.

Ann Redpath on behalf of our young Curlers submitted a bid for £160 to be put toward the cost of 4 x S4 pupils representing KHS at the Scottish Curling Championships in Aberdeen.

All bids were discussed and approved - £680 was electronically transferred to the KHS bank account and will be used to purchase items as requested. Money transferred to Ann Redpath to distribute to curlers as necessary.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 23.04.24 is £933.41

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

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £933.41

No funding requests received.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7.00pm via Zoom

Harriet thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.