

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KELSO HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2024 VIA ZOOM



Attendance - Leri Payne (Vice Chair), Jill Lothian (Head Teacher), Julie McIntosh, Jo Pennington, John Borthwick, Simon Mountford, Colin Woodward, Claire Shanks, Sonya Nairn, Pam Guthrie and Riley ?.

Apologies - Tom Weatherston and Harriet Campbell (Chair).

Vice Chairperson Leri Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Minutes from 02.10.24 were discussed and approved by Leri Payne and Julie McIntosh.

Matters Arising / Chairs Report

Not much to report, a meeting is trying to be arranged to get together with other secondary PC chairs. There is a Parent Chair Inspire Meeting at Tweedbank next Wednesday 13/11 7-9pm which Leri will try to attend, Pam attending on behalf of Broomlands PS. Any parent or PC reps are invited to attend.

Pam gave a brief outline from last meeting with SBC (Christian Brown and an other?) although notes to be passed on in due course. 3 people attended from Boomlands, Edenside and Morebattle, mainly involved planning, where to go, working together, how to get people involved as it is always the same people.

Pam confirmed she will be stepping down as Broomlands PC Chair at the end of the session and will possibly take possible replacement with her the Inspire meeting.

Head Teacher's Report

Discussion around staffing and staff absences. Concerns voiced regarding how to get staff and to retain them. KHS are trying to manage the supply we currently have and the cover required to make sure the disruption to learning for our young people is as little as possible.

The Navy attended and worked with our S1's, they reported that it was an excellent year group, very engaged and respectful.

Sleep Project – fantastic group of young people involved.

Skate Park Project have secured £50,000 funding and a meeting is being arranged to address the vandalism and litter issues – community project.

Our remembrance Service will be held on Monday 11th November with all our S6 cohort involved.

Award Ceremony - next Thursday 14.11.24

We hosted an S1 Information Evening and approximately 50 parents attended, we received positive feedback saying it had been a smooth transition for the majority of pupils. The Buddy Committee were in attendance to talk about the plans for the year and also PT English and Maths to discuss the curriculum.

No word on a date for our HMIE inspection as yet, could be after Xmas now however Edenside PS have theirs on Monday.

Mobile Phones

This is a huge point within schools with staff and pupils. The Scottish Government have left decisions up to individual schools, SBC have confirmed that mobile phones cannot be banned (this is not a law therefore cannot be enforced).

At KHS pupils can bring mobiles to school to be used at break and lunchtime only. The device should be off/on silent and in schoolbags during classes.

We find that we don't always get the backing / support from parents to remove phones from young people when rules are not followed. S1 are good with following the rules. Social Media is a massive concern. There are apps available to limit screen time during school hours. We need support from parent and to work with the school.

Discussion around the distraction of phones and bullying.

Some parents very keen to try the 'phones in a box' during classes however we need the parental body to be behind the majority approach. How do we communicate and get feedback? Opt Out?

Young people can often refuse to hand the phone in, reaction from them when asked, some are so addicted to the device. Young people do not need a smart phone, a basic phone for calls and texts does the job.

All schools are trying to find a solution that works best for them that doesn't take up a lot of time and doesn't disrupt the learning.

Start with S1 as they don't know any different yet?

Discussion around the provision of phone boxes for all classrooms – look at the cost implications.

Interested in how the primary schools are dealing with the issue, can this be fed into the transition process?

Short discussion about vaping in school, specifically the PE changing rooms and toilets. Consultation with staff first and then setting procedures around this.

Treasurers' Report

Lottery Account

The balance of the PC Lottery account as of 07.11.24 is £2,057.55.

There are currently 319 active lines. This equates to £159.50 going into the prize fund and £159.50 into the account for funding requests.

The next lottery draw will take place on Monday 28.11.24. The prize fund will be approximately £474.00.

The prize fund of £1000 was won on 28.08.24 by Jill Leavey – Congratulations!!

The furniture for the S6 area has now arrived but we have not been invoiced as yet. This will be approximately £700 as per previous bid agreed.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £883.55

Funding Requests

John Borthwick (Music Teacher) joined the meeting to submit a funding request to purchase new radio mics for the school. The department are putting on a production of Mathilda in June and the current equipment is not up to the standard required. They would like to purchase 12 FM frequency, long life mics and are requesting a contribution of £200. This is being matched from the department budget and the Thomas Maconochie Trust as well. The request was discussed and approved.

Main Account

The balance of the PC Main account as of 07.11.24 is £1013.55.

No activity on the account since the last meeting.

TOTAL AVAILABLE TO SPEND £1013.55

The 2023/24 accounts have been finalised and are currently being audited by Jackie Nairn.

Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 11th December in person. Leri submitted her apologies for this meeting in advance.

Leri thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.