

Kelso High School Parent Council

Minutes of the meeting of 31st August 2010

Present: Kathleen Ritchie (KR), A Nicol (AN), Judith Penman (JP), Andrew Armstrong (AA), Barbara Thomson (BT), Tom Weatherston (TW), Jane Norman (JN), Drew Ramsay (DR), Lynn Young (LY), Carol Gillie (CG)

Apologies: Jenny Earl, Alison Lett,

Lynn Forsyth

In the absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, JN agreed to chair the meeting

New Members: Lynn Young, Sarah Potter

Barbara Thomson

All welcomed

Treasurer's Report See attached report from LF

Rector's Report See attached report for items discussed.

Noted: Examination results for S4-S6 pupils were a little lower this year than last. However, last year's results were higher than normal. As per the national trend, university places have been harder to gain for those pupils who had lower than required grades.

Budget. This was previously scrutinised and discussed at PC, but items of note were:

£20K has been saved as required; in part, by some volunteer cover by teachers in the Modern Studies Dpt by taking classes instead of having to purchase supply teachers. Another £20K must be saved this financial year

Access for staff from new parking area behind rugby club is complete. The cost of electronic gates was saved and instead of this spend, CR persuaded SBC to lay some tarmac which was otherwise going to cost £4K. This £4K had been donated by CBAH and can now be spent on items for the social area instead of tarmac. Discussion followed regarding application for match funding via Lottery (Jean Roberston, Lottery Officer, SBC will advise), Youth Chex and a SBC fast track scheme for community led schemes. Representative from Pupil Council is invited to attend the next PC meeting to discuss/present plans

School News See attached report from CR.

Noted: HMEI inspection is now anticipated Summer 2011

School Estate See attached report by AN. Much discussion regarding the Options

Appraisal which is going to begin at a cost of £100K. A number of options will be considered as per the attached paper and as per previous meeting. It was agreed with CG that KPC must influence the Options and the PC would like a time line for progress of this process and information with regard to how the PC will become involved in the process. **Action: AN, TW**

School Session Dates 2011-2014. Options are: No February ½ term week, longer Summer holiday; 2 week 1/2 term break in October and 1 week less holiday in Summer or February. A 'group call' is to be sent to all parents with mobile numbers registered with school, asking them to vote for their preference. **Action: CR**

Senior staff appointments. JN to ask either IF or PC to be the appointed representative

JN expressed sadness on behalf of the PC at the announcement of CR's retirement. PC members who will have had recruitment training for the replacement process are LF, JN, JP and DR. All will be involved on the selection process and 2 members will be on the interviewing panel. Closing date for application for the post of Rector is 30 September.

Education Appeals Panel. JN to ask Ian Fingland if he or Peter Cooper wish to be on this panel or if the opportunity should be opened out to Council Members

National PC Body AGM. Representative asked for from KPC but no volunteers for this

Borders PC Chairs meetings: 4 November 2010, 10 February 2011 and 9 May 2011. Dates noted

Date of AGM: Monday 27th September, 7pm.

Action: LF to be asked to arrange refreshments. SG to book room

AOB: DR asked for the support of PC on the subject of challenging SBC with regard to changes to the school bus transport between Eckford and Kelso. A number of pupils are having to catch a bus at 8:05am instead of the previous time of 8.25am and are correspondingly late in the afternoon, despite there being available seats on a later bus. DR to write to SBC on behalf of the PC, and ask for a considered decision