

Minutes of Meeting of Kelso High School Parent Council

Held on 8th September 2009

Kelso High School Meeting Room

1. Present

- ? Ian Fingland (Chair) - IF
- ? Carol Gillie - CG
- ? Jane Norman - JN
- ? Judith Penman - JP
- ? Charlie Robertson - CR
- ? Lynn Forsyth (treasurer) - LF
- ? Jessica Osbourne – JO
- ? Karen Gray – KG
- ? Sarah Griggs (clerk) - SG

2. Apologies

- ? Julie Berry
- ? Jenny Earl
- ? Alec Nicol
- ? Tom Weatherspoon
- ? James Miller
- ? Vanessa Henderson

Absent

- Donna Renwick
- Andrew Armstrong

3. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

- ? Accepted
- ? CR distributed the Curriculum for Excellence Draft for Kelso High School. Discussion followed with regard to:
 1. Subject teachers are expressing concern for their 'own' subjects (reasons for this) and that newly qualified teaching staff should come into teaching with an expectation of multi-subject teaching and responsibility.
 2. Concern expressed that if less examinations are sat, then some pupils may leave school having not had the opportunity to pass at lower levels and may leave with no or few, qualifications. Standard grades and Intermediate 2 are to be merged to give a larger range of pass-grades
 3. The school day is to change from 8 to 6 periods and there will be no double periods and lunch-time is to be shortened to enable the school day to finish at 3.30pm Discussion about whether this will allow time at lunch-time for additional 'help' sessions or clubs and what the motivation is for this proposal

4. CR welcomes feedback
5. Range of diverse and strong opinions expressed by PC members on all of the above

4. Outstanding Action Points

None

4 Treasurer's report

Balance as at 30/04/09		£1156.77	
Paid in:		Paid out:	
Interest	.41	P7 Parent's Evening	21.93
Music Evening	181.88	Celebration of Achievement	
SBC Admin	250.00	evening	30.00
Clerk	230.00	Record of Achievement	
Easy Fundraising	38.16	folders	250.00
		Printer Ink	16.73
	+ 790.45		- 318.66
Balance as at 08/09/09		£1628.56	

Future expenses will be annual clerk fees of £480 and Parent Handbooks £250

LF: reported that Easy Fundraising has raised £30+. Aim is for parents/ teachers/friends of the school to do their internet shopping via this site. Licence has been acquired from SBC for the Tote lottery. Aim is to persuade parents and anyone else interested to pay £5 per month by standing order. JN to help set up the scheme

The PC will publicise both fundraisers by having a presence at all Parent's evenings/letters in school bags and notices in local press and school magazine

CR: suggested that the grant from Charity Begins at Home be spent on a recreational space. To be discussed at the next meeting

5 School News

CR distributed DSM budget hand-out. Further staffing reductions will fund the shortfall in funding, and a subject may be cut. Discussion about whether the school Eco group could monitor energy use

Suggestion that, as departments are not sufficiently funded, the PC fundraising might be used for this purpose. Discussion about the appropriateness of this

6 School Estate

IF explained that at the meeting in June with Councillor Bhatia and others, reassurance was given that KHS would not be demoted in terms of need if the RE block was replaced (as it has been). However, it has now been stated that this is not the case, and that KHS has now been re-graded to a less urgent degree of

need. Astonishment and anger met this announcement . SBC have not committed or submitted an application to Futures Scotland/Scottish Govt which would provide 50% of the cost because the other 50% would need to be matched by SBC. The reality is that there will not be a new high school for around 10-15 years, but that not improving or maintaining the current school is not an option. For instance, the maths teaching rooms have not been decorated for 25years and the damaged ceiling is so old that it is in imperial measurements. CR commended the pupils who showed Cllr Bhatia around at the visit in June. Noted that the assembly hall has been upgraded using the Thomas McConnachie fund and this is a tremendous improvement. JP will join IG on School Estate sub-committee and a Primary Chair rep will be invited

9 AOCB

Noted that there is still 'curiosity' about the role of the Integrated Services Managers as some (3?) years on the benefits are not evident. It was suggested that by 2010 the new structure will be working

10 AGM

Tuesday 20th October 7pm in a classroom according to numbers. Theme will be the critical financial situation. Group call and letters to be sent