

Minutes of Kelso High School Parent Council Meeting, Monday 9th May , 7pm



Present: Parents: Ian Fingland, Chair (IF), Lynn Forsyth, Treasurer ((LF), Lynn Young (LY), Diane Blaylock (DB), Jane Norman (JN), Carol Gillie (CG), Judith Penman (JP), Andrew Armstrong (AA), Robert Cutting (RC), Barbara Thomson (BT), Sarah Griggs , Clerk, (SG)

Scottish Borders Council; Alec Nicol, Councillor,(AN), Tom Weatherston, Councillor (TW), Ruth Mackay, Rector (RM), Helen Ross, Schools Manager, (HR), Paul Sellwood, Health and Safety Officer (PS)

Apologies: Karen Gray

Playground Drop-Off Vehicular Access

PS and HR were in attendance for this topic only to explain the need for all but essential vehicles to be excluded from the front of the school during school hours. A report was produced which detailed advice given by the Health and Safety Executive in 2003. Much of this advice was acted upon but exclusion of vehicles was not implemented. A fairly lively discussion ensued regarding the necessity of excluding cars; in particular cars driven by parents to drop off and pick up pupils.

Reasons given to maintain the status quo were:

- that there will be chaos in other areas if cars are not allowed into the front of the school; ie in Orchard Park and Bowmont Street
- there are instances where parents have made appointments for their children to go to an activity or appointment after school or perhaps during the day, and the time of this appointment or activity means they must be able to park in the school grounds so as to leave as soon as possible after the child comes out
- Pupils and car drivers are mature enough to be aware of each other and the space they share and there have been no incidents or close shaves. Road safety and risk anticipation are skills that every High School Pupil should have by the age of 11+

Please note, all the above discussions are based on the experiences of those expressing their opinion and there was much debate around whether this was actuality or perception

Reasons given to change the status quo were:

- That the H&S Executive Report is not negotiable so there is no choice but to implement its recommendations
- It was, (contrary to the opposite observations of the parents), seen to be dangerous to pupils to share the same space as moving cars.
- This is a good opportunity for the formal School Travel Plan and the Health and Well Being Agenda to be implemented and the health benefits of walking and cycling to school could be gained. Pester power by pupils to parents to drop at the door would be reduced because they would not be allowed to do so, but could drop off and pick children say ¼ from school, thus encouraging activity

Further discussion ensued regarding use of Kelso Rugby Club grounds and the situation in Orchard Park where the school busses come through to pick up children. Again, differing opinions about whether this is a slick operation or chaotic, and the views of Orchard Park residents were mentioned. It is necessary for all 3 of the Senior Management Team to oversee the despatch of pupils at the end of the school day. The discussion ended with RM explaining that the recommendations will be followed, the Police will be allocating additional resources at

least in the short term, yellow zig-zags at the school entrance will be re-painted, the barriers will be brought up to DDA compliance. Both councillors (AN and TW) suggested that further meetings/consultations are held before this happens. However, the new regime will be in place by the new timetable (4th June). Parents will be informed via the newsletter

Minutes of the last Meeting

Approved. No comments

Treasurer's report/fundraising.

Kelso High School Parent Council Financial Report as at 9/5/11

Balance as at 30/1/11		£2,152.18	
Paid In			Paid Out
Interest	0.89		Clerk's Honorarium
Easy Fundraising			160.00
Dance Festival		91.30	
2417.27		172.90	
Balance as at 9/5/11		160.00	
From Fundraising Etc		1722.21	
Admin/Grants	535.06		2257.27
£2,417.27		£2,417.27	
Easyfundraising next cheque due - £27.79			
Donations Usually Made June Annually			
Contribution to Record of Achievement Folders (June)		£250.00	
Contribution to Leavers Evening (June 2010 £60)			
Contribution to Celebration of Achievement Evening (Sept 2010 £60)		£30.00	
Payment of Parental Handbook Covers Approx		£280.00	
Still to Pay Donation to Westminster Visit		£200.00	
£760.00			
3 Number Lottery	£559.50 Winner in February. Prize		£341.50
	Fund at 26/4/11 c/f to May Draw		
Expenses - Southern Reporter Notices -		£16.50	
Balance for donation to School		£2,295.20	

Agreed to donate the following:

£250 towards Leavers Folders

£60 towards Celebration of Achievement

£280 towards S1 Handbook

RM has been looking into some additional sources of school funding. Charity Begins at Home has donated £1,200 for Hockey and Literacy. Colin Henderson (CBAH treasurer) has invited further bids for cash from the school. AN mentioned (as he had done at the previous meeting) that Sainsburys will be allocating Community Money and KHS may be eligible to apply. He will advise the PC when the time has come to do so. RM has also indicated to staff that they may apply to the PC for funding certain projects. These will be looked at individually to be assessed for suitability. Discussion about whether memory sticks for the S1 packs were appropriate use for PC funds. This item will be c/f to next agenda.

A parent, Gavin Innes has volunteered his services as PC Treasurer and he will be introduced at the next meeting

Stepping down from her role as treasurer, Lynn Forsyth was thanked for her major contribution to the Parent Council as treasurer and for running the Tote and refreshment supplies at school events.

JN agreed to take over the Tote Lottery and JP will organise refreshments shopping for school events which the PC supports.

Provision of Refreshments at Events

There had been a request for the PC to provide volunteers to sell drinks at a Country and Western Night on the 21st June being put on by the Expressive Arts Dpt.

ACTION: IF to email a request for helpers

A suggestion was that the PC or the Home Economics pupils could provide food and include this in the ticket price but this was not approved due to H&S considerations. It was proposed that the PC could alternatively, donate some money to be spent on using an outside catering company

Rectors Report

Agreement with COSLA regarding early severance deals for teaching staff came late so staffing for 2011/12 could not be confirmed at the date of this meeting. 2 teachers are leaving under this scheme: Alan Wise and Andrew Rutherford. 3 newly qualified teachers will be joining the school for 1 year in the following departments: Business Management, Maths and Chemistry. The School Budget is tight and funds cannot be used so flexibly as in the past. RM commended Fiona Bryson (Business Manager) for her competence in this role. As reported at previous meetings, it is anticipated that KHS will have an HMI visit soon and to this end, June Orr of SBC has met with RM. One theme of the inspection will be 'meeting learners needs' and the curriculum for less academic pupils in conjunction with Community Learning and Development as there are more pupils than ever before with additional needs. RM also looking at how to allocate as much pastoral care as before to each pupil now that each teacher with pastoral duties has 50% more pupils. The website re-design contract has been awarded to the only serious bidder SoJo Media. This is the wife and daughter of Ian King the IT teacher at KHS. Timescale is 12 months. Cost not confirmed but will depend on what platform is used. AN pointed out that it needs to work with 'Glow' and run fast enough to run video media files

School News

Success in both hockey teams: 1st team beat George Watsons and the 2nd team were semi-finalists in the same Scottish Schools competition. Great performance by the swimming team, drama production and S1 rugby team also. The Burns Federation have invited one KHS pupil to take part in the National Burns Competition in Aberdeen. The Dance Festival was hosted by KHS and staff were thanked for their support of this event

School Estate

SBC have run Workshops to explore all options. RM has attended these and reported that the process is very thorough and challenged thinking

AOCB

LY attended a meeting on dress code which was organised by Gillian Simmonds. It was attended by pupils, teachers and parents and the document has been published in its draft form

LY also attended the Secondary Schools PCGroup led by Jackie Swanston. Items discussed: SQA exams appeals procedures and the 33 period week (no change from the biggest stumbling block which is school transport). It is likely that the schools will align start times and the morning classes, thus enabling some use of Video Conferencing classes. BHS are piloting the 33 period week and SBC are committed to it in the longer term.

AA attended a meeting regarding IT infrastructure, interactivity and newer technology, and they were looking for a feedback from PC representatives. There will be a fuller report issued when all the cluster schools have met.

RM advised that DDA compliance works will be carried out over the summer holidays
P7 Parents Evening Tues 14th June. Parent Council volunteers required. JP to arrange refreshments

Next Meeting: Monday 13th June, 7pm, KHS meeting room

Agenda Items:

- Parent Council Funding by SBC
- New Treasurer, Gavin Innes
- Staffing