

Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, 27 August 2015
Minutes

Present: S Brown, C Hynd, T Lizier, M Correa, C Sheeler, J Kennedy, B Sultana, M Molina, R Lloyd, E Mullan, A Speedie, D McCafferty, A Wilson, C Johnstone, L Nangle, G Cleary, S O'Donohoe, G Harte, Y Proyer, J Slater, L Irvine, T Aimers, K Bruce-Gardyne, Mary Nicolson, D Fitzpatrick, A Manning, J Negri, DWatters, B Cochrane, J Ritchie, S Murray, J Harkin, T Hughes

Apologies: Fr Scally, M McCann, A Flynn

1. Welcome and Introduction

Juliet welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were given from everyone in attendance.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Amendment of expressing concern of mandatory uniform.

3. Head Teacher's Report

SQA examinations had an extremely positive outcome this year; level 4 – good, level 5 – strong. New exams passing 6/7/8 more Nat 5. Level 6 increase 1+ need to improve on that, increase on 5+ and 6+ Highers. Tommy thanked staff for all their dedication and hard work supporting the pupils and all the pupils for their efforts.

Staffing Update - Kevin Brown successful in post of CL at Kelso High School. Mark Gair now at Leith Academy. Sarah Carnegie successful in CL post at Forrester HS, Robert Staines contract not extended as Acting DHT, released to substantive post, require over 800 pupils to have entitlement of 3rd DHT. Clare Marshall, DHT is on seconded post for 23 months to Education Scotland.

Currently 2 PE vacancies, received 23 applications, will have a long leet and short leet interview process. A query was raised regarding PE available to pupils, concerns with having regular supply teachers and watching videos. It was discussed it is difficult to get qualified PE staff, this has already been raised with the City of Edinburgh. Eugene raised the possibility of the Parent Council writing to the Council regarding the current position and offering a support to the school, Parent Council to arrange this.

Isabelle Jean Pierre will take up the Acting DHT post as of 24 August until the DHT interviews take place on 3 September and will be responsible for S1 to S3.

Vacancies for Class Teacher of Business Education, CL of Modern Languages and CL of Art and Design Technologies.

The Senior Awards Ceremony will take place on 30 September, the guest speaker will be Bishop John Kennan and the Lower school ceremony will take place on 1 October.

The senior leadership position interviews took place the pupils were outstanding. Head Girl – Sarah Wilson, Deputy Head Girl – Charlotte Lazarowicz, Head Boy – Alistair Mitchell, Deputy Head Boy – Conol Mooney.

Discussion took place with regards to the current process and policy of selecting pupils for senior posts, there must be a fair and transparent process, there appeared to be mixed feeling on this subject. It was suggested that in previous years it became a popularity contest between pupils. A query was raised regarding the policy Tommy concurred the SMT had looked at the process and agreed it would remain as was, it was felt this way is the best way forward for the pupils.

4. Communication to Parents

A query was raised regarding the current communication to parents, the issue of the website was discussed again. Several issues around current information being available were raised. Tommy reported that a member of staff had agreed to update and take responsibility of the school website as a good communication tool, training had to be completed, and sadly the member of staff had a family bereavement. There has been no newsletter since April 2015, newsletter is posted onto the website and a text sent to parents. It was suggested that the S6 pupils could assist with the website updates. Tommy reported that the School Calendar was currently awaiting agreement with the teaching unions and would be available as soon as possible.

5. School Uniform

A query was raised with real concern regarding the school uniform. A parent showed the group a navy sweatshirt and expressed what had changed since March to June.

Tommy stated the majority of parents were delighted with the uniform and blazers, he commented that the pupils looked fantastic, the demand had been so high that another uniform evening is being organised. Some pupils are still wearing hoodies and trainers, there needs to be time for it to settle in. A parent expressed a concern that the children had to wear the blazer all day and discussion took place regarding this.

A long discussion was had regarding the uniform and the organisation of this and currently what is happening and the communication factors surrounding this.

It was agreed that this has been discussed on 2 or 3 occasions at Parent Council Meetings, it is not a new policy. On advice from the council full discussion has taken place and the item should not to be included on the agenda for future meetings. This item does not need to go on to the agenda again.

6. Excursions

Jo distributed information with regards to proposed residential excursions for 2016, they still had to be approved by SMT and Curricular Leaders.

7. Future Topics

- Head Boy & Head Girl presentations
- SFL Presentation

8. Treasurer's Report

Currently hold a balance of £1500, Angela proposed that £1300 is used for the Grant Bids.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 22 October at 6:30pm in the Conference Room, all welcome

10. AOB

Grant Bids were discussed, Jo to issued information to teachers

Text to go out to all Parents regarding Beer and Wine Tasting on 2 October, £10 per ticket.

A parent raised the windows, and if a fund raiser could be done for this as they are very dirty.

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting. People are raising very important issues which we acknowledge and we must continue to work on these difficult issues.