

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON
Wednesday 1st May 2013 AT 8pm IN EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Sanat Mehta, Diane Dakers, Alex McMillan, Margo McGibbon, Graham Smith, Mark Taylor, Margaret Jerfel, Gordon Wallace, Lesley Smith, Grace McCathy, Ian McIntosh, Mehmood Mir, Connie Hume, Jacqueline Keenan, Kash Ali, Andrew Keir, Michelle Keir, Karen Armstrong

IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Maxwell (Head Teacher), Shona McWilliam (Clerk), Cllr Charles Gilbert

APOLOGIES: Gillian Morgan, Susan Clark

1. INTRODUCTION

Sanat welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (23rd January 2013)

Minutes approved and will be entered onto website,

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES –23rd January 2013

Nil

4. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Parent Council Resources brochure**

b) **'Nationals in a Nutshell'**

Visit www.parentforumscotland.org for more information.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) **New Building Update – decant details**

New build to be handed over at end of month (31st May). Stuart had a meeting today with all staff to pass on decant arrangements. Swimming pool area will be open in the summer.

It may be possible in June for some pupils to have a trial run of using the new canteen and even having an assembly in the atrium.

New musical instruments have been delivered to the new school. S Mehta asked what would happen to the old ones. They would be offered to the other schools as well as the furniture. Anything worth taking will be transferred to the new school during June.

BAM will have a small team on site till the end of June, to help with the transporting of the Dux board etc, which will not take place until after the prize giving in June.

On the last day of term (26th June) the keys will be turned on the building and demolition will start in the days to follow.

A new pitch is to be constructed on old building site. BAM will be on site till the end of November.

b) Staffing Update

Fiona Riggans has been appointed full time History/Modern Studies teacher.
Rhona Metcalfe (our NQT for this year) has been appointed a French/Spanish teacher.
Derek Fairlie is our newly appointed Music teacher, from Inverclyde Academy, who has excellent sound recording experience and a very good musician.
Elaine Regan (Faculty Head of Music/Art/Drama) will return to work on 3rd June from her maternity leave.
Susan Coia has gained a full term permanent post in Home Economics.
New Maths post, interviews on Friday.
PT Guidance vacancy to be filled as Wendy Hight (Biology) will be retiring in June
PT Behaviour Support vacancy will become available in September when Sandy Jamieson retires.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) New Building Open Commemorative Plaque

S Maxwell hopes that perhaps the Parent Council would like to donate a plaque for the new school. D Dakers wondered if our Technical dept could design a plaque. S Maxwell will speak to Avril Allan (Faculty Head).

b) Support with Blazer Badges

S Maxwell already discussed with the PTA earlier in the evening and they are very keen to go ahead with the idea.
M Taylor asked about the new school tie and if there would still be different ones for colours in sport and music. S Maxwell said the tie would have a different stripe depending on which subject.

c) School Budget 13/14

Virtually the same as last year. M Taylor asked if the new school would be supplied with more janitorial staff. S Maxwell in discussion with the council at present, we would hope to have two janitors all the time during school hours in the new school. D Dakers asked who would be paying for the new sport facility. It would be 60-40 (60 – Eastwood) split for maintenance etc S Mehta will raise concerns regarding the new sports facility, maintenance and up keep etc at the next Parent Chair meeting. Once the new school opens the council predict that there will be more lets till 10pm.

7. a) Capelrig House

The article in the ER magazine, stating that Capelrig House will be used for secondary-aged pupils with challenging needs has raised concerns with the parent council. Cllr Gilbert has been in communication with the council asking for further information on this article. G McCarthy would like the East Renfrewshire to define 'challenging needs' pupils. It was agreed that Sanat would draft a letter of seeking further clarification from the education Convenor on behalf of the Parent Council.

b) Thanks to PC members leaving the Council

Stuart thanked Margo for all her support and contributions over the many years that she has been a member of the PTA and the Parent Council.

c) Thanks to PTA members (A Fond Farewell Evening)

Stuart would like to thank the PTA members who helped make our Fond Farewell Evening a resounding success.

G McCarthy would like it re-iterated at assemblies the importance of pupils staying in school till the end of the day on the last day of term. SM agreed and mentioned that it will help us greatly when we move to our new school as we will only have one door in and out. D Dakers also raised the showing of DVDs by teachers towards the last day of term as contributing to this. SM stated that he would give a strong message to staff and pupils although this end of term may present particular challenges.

L Smith raised the issue over the speed of drivers approaching the new roundabout, some drivers are not even going round it but over it and not slowing down on approach. Stuart will speak to our Campus Police officer, to see if he can perhaps have some police officers stationed at the roundabout to observe drivers. Cllr Gilbert will check the road signs and make sure that there are sufficient signs on the approaching roads to the roundabout. Stuart said that once the new car park is operational the roundabout will have more traffic going round it which will in turn hopefully slow down the traffic.

K Ali said that he had heard that St Ninians were offering pupils tutoring for UKCAT exams and wondered if Eastwood would be offering the same. Stuart said that he was completely unaware of this and said that teachers have not had any training and at present the school has no plans to offer this to pupils. M Taylor and G Smith mentioned that there are plenty website offering online revision and practice tests for the exam.

This is the last meeting this session. Our next meeting will be in the new term.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR ENQUIRIES 0141-577-2200
Email: schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk