

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL HELD ON
Wednesday 4th March 2015 AT 8pm IN EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

PRESENT: PARENTS – Ian McIntosh (Chair), Diane Dakers, Connie Hume, Lesley Smith, James Meneely, Gordon Ford, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Lindsay Strickland, Valerie Chisholm, Mark Taylor, Sandra McDermid, Jacqueline Keenan, Kash Ali, Graham Smith, Karen Armstrong, Dana Fowler, Rob Catterson, Grace McCarthy, Ailsa Connelly, Andrew & Michelle Keir, Susan Clark

IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Maxwell (Head Teacher), Shona McWilliam (Clerk) Cllr Gilbert, Mr Ken McKinlay

APOLOGIES: Sanat Mehta

1. INTRODUCTION

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (12th November 2014)

Minutes approved and seconded. They will be entered onto the school's website.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES (12th November 2014)

a) Diane raised concerns regarding Mrs Smith, English teacher who was leaving shortly to go onto maternity leave. Stuart confirmed that the English department have now altered their timetable to cover all her classes.

b) Mark mentioned that at the back gate there was a street light which was being over shadowed by a large tree. The tree is seemingly in private ground but Mark said that he thought that if the branches were over hanging, they could be cut and given back over to the owner's garden. Charlie said that he would take another look and report back.

c) It was also raised by Cathy that the back gate had stopped being locked and was being regularly used by dog walkers. Stuart confirmed that the gate is now locked but would remind janitors on a regular basis.

d) Susan confirmed by the group insurance had been refunded to the PTA

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Ian received information from the National Parent Forum which would be of interest to our members. **see attached sheet.**

East Renfrewshire Council have forwarded leaflets to the Parent Council members on the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a) **Staffing Update**

2 permanent teacher posts will be advertised shortly. One for PE (S Govan is reducing her hours) and one for Home Economics. From August the Maths and English classes in S1 and S2 will not be increased to 30 because of this we will be advertising for a long term temporary post in Maths.

Alan Richmond will be retiring at the summer which will create an Acting Deputy Head vacancy, which will be advertised before Easter.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a) **Implications of the Leisure Trust for Eastwood High School (Mr McKinlay, ERC Education department)**

Ian introduced Mr Ken McKinlay from ERC Education department who was invited to the Parent Council to explain the implications of the Leisure Trust for Eastwood High School. Mr McKinlay confirmed that there would be no adverse effect on teaching at Eastwood, it could even benefit the school. The Culture and Leisure Trust will deliver leisure for the council the benefits is that it will be the same service at a reduced cost. It will include all leisure facilities, pitches, theatre, libraries and active schools and should be live by 2nd July 2015.

Eastwood would benefit from a 95% reduced rate bill. The council will still own the building but the trust will operate it full time. It will be a genuine saving to the council.

Ian was concerned that there would be a reduced facility to the people.

Ailsa asked who would look after the maintenance of the building. Mr McKinlay answered by informing us that the trust will be charged to keep the building in good repair. The money would be raised by management fees and payment from the public.

Karen asked would there still be free swimming available at the holidays for the children.

Andrew did mention that when Ayrshire changed to the KA Trust free swimming was removed. Mr McKinlay said that it hasn't been discussed yet.

Rob asked does the trust decide how the money will be spent. It was confirmed that the council does have a say through the board and customer feedback. There will be a partnership between the Trust and the council. Same services and a lesser cost. There is no hidden agenda and there will be no profit extraction. There must be dialogue between the Trust and the council.

Stuart raised the issue of the vending machines in the PE block and is concerned that the pupils will not be offered a healthy option during school hours. Ken confirmed that it is facilities management who own them and not the Trust.

Ian enquired about our library and asked what impact it would have on Eastwood.

Mr McKinlay confirmed there would be reduced services but didn't highlight how it would affect Eastwood.

Grace stated that as the areas grows in housing the area will benefit with more leisure facilities.

At the end of the discussion, Ian thanked Mr McKinlay for attending and left the meeting.

b) **Conclusion of Religious building proposal**

It was confirmed by Gordon who received a call from Stewart Maxwell MSP that the reporter had refused planning permission to build a mosque in the school grounds.

c) **Filming Volunteers**

Stuart asked if any parents who were part of the original design charette for the new school would be interested in being interviewed next Tuesday at 4pm. Susan and Jacqueline offered to attend meeting.

7. **AOB**

Gordon asked if he could hand out some leaflets on juvenile diabetes. The monies raised next week on the Dress As you Please day for Red Nose day, half will be donated to JDRF.

Susan asked if she could change the contact details for the SPTA to Ian.

Diane concerned about the absence of Dr Jamieson in Chemistry due to ill health. Stuart confirmed that he is still trying to obtain another chemistry teacher. Barbara Golombok who retired last year from Biology has come back to help on a part-time basis. Although Dr Jamieson is convinced she will return next week Stuart has his reservations. The pupils will be offered 3 days of free chemistry tuition over the Easter holidays to help support them.

Karen asked how pupils can get career advice. Stuart confirmed that it would be best to approach their pastoral care teacher or Karen in Careers.

Ailsa mentioned there was an issue this week with a pupil losing out in valuable studio time in Art due to taking acrylic paint out with the department. Stuart said that he knew about the issue and it wasn't the first time that the pupil had broken the rules.

Gordon asked if the school run the Duke of Edinburgh award. Stuart confirmed it was in 5th year.

Next meeting will be Wednesday 6th May 2015 at 8pm

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