

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 8pm**  
**in EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Adele Thomson, Nick Bothwell, Jennifer Nesbitt, John Anderson, Natalie McMillan, Karen McGrady-Parker, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Umair Khan, Shabnam Ijaz, Wendy Durie, Graham Campbell, Denny Henderson, Neha Mathur, Laura Strachan

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kate Sinclair (Head Teacher) & Chris Morris (Depute)  
Shona McWilliam (Clerk)

**APOLOGIES:** Katy Berry, Vicky Clark, Nilam Ijaz, Jacqui White, Glen Cartwright, Matthew Hughes, Fiona Edwards, Beverly Stoner, Jenny MacDonald

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Adele welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

**2. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

New members – Denny Henderson, Neha Mathur, Laura Strachan and Jenny MacDonald (who sends her apologies)

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (21<sup>st</sup> September 2022)**

Minutes approved and seconded. Shona will enter them onto the school's website

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Nil

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

**6. HEAD TEACHER**

Tonight's PTA

Some of our senior pupils attended to discuss a Breakfast Club which the school is hoping to start up over the next few months.

Kate mentioned to members that we have 3 staff off on long term sick and that the school is facing other staffing challenges. We are interviewing for the post of temporary Teacher of English later this month. In addition to this we are fortunate to have DHTs with specialisms in some of these areas. DHTs have taken on additional teaching commitments to ensure that learning and teaching is covered in these subjects. It has been difficult to secure temporary staff but she wished parents/carers to know that she was working hard on this and will always ensure that learning & teaching is her first priority.

S4 Prelims start next week but they may be affected by the proposed Industrial Action on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Further information will be sent out from school tomorrow to parents.

Train strikes are a continual challenge. Even at short notice we provide parents with up to date information by texting/emailing and tweeting. We organise Abbey coaches for first thing in the morning (usual at 9am approx) and return journey at end of day. Due to the availability

of buses this generally means pupils are picked up between 4.00 pm and 4.15 pm which means that the children stay in the atrium from 3.35 pm and the Head Teacher and DHTs supervise them. This affects approximately 275 pupils. We also provide a bus later on in the day for the children who return from college or attend after school clubs.

You should have received our new Parent newsletter which has been created by our newly appointed PT Development Recognising Wider Achievement. This has been produced as a SWAY. This is an excellent newsletter which will be issued monthly, at the request of parents/carers.

Kate then gave a report on the excellent feedback that we received from HMIE on our recent Thematic Inspection on Anti-bullying.

- HMIE reported that we were strong on using SEEMIS to record incidents of bullying, SLT and all school staff are highly visible across the school. Of particular note were the actions taken to prevent bullying such as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABAs), Healthier Minds Champions, Mentors in Violence Protection and the LGBT Group. Staff are approachable. Special mention was made of the pupil support team. Targeted support is very effective and bespoke in nature. Effective use of partnership working; Campus Cop delivering PSHE lessons. Community Learning Development (CLD) also provide strong support. Relationships and ethos are both very strong in the school. The ethos of nurture and inclusion were clearly evident – led by the SLT and the Head Teacher. HMIE were impressed with the way that the new school vision & values were embedded; they were surprised that these had only been established since just before the summer. Staff take bullying seriously and investigate and deal with any incidents that they are made aware of. There is a climate of trust and mutual respect. Staff really care about the young people. The professional enquiry, carried out by an Newly Qualified Teacher last session, was also highlighted as an area of strength. This was on the area of racist and homophobic bullying.
- Pupil leadership is a real strength. We are being put forward for a case study on our “noteworthy and effective practice” in this area. It is already having an impact. Mentors are across all year groups, not just S6. Young people do not just lead, they have ownership of this. HMIE would like the school to be recognised for their work in this area.
- Areas for development – to continue to build on this current culture of nurture and inclusion, rather than being punitive. Add to our current Anti-Bullying Policy to include in the preventative measures that we are taking to promote positive relationships, such as ABA, MVP, LGBT Groups and Healthier Minds Champions. Explore where the merit system fits in with positive relationships. Pupils value being taught PSHE by their pupil support teachers – keep this going but also bring in more outside speakers where possible and look at better planning of themes around the root causes of bullying e.g. Holocaust, Racism, LGBT, across all curricular areas. Continue to explore why some pupils do not report bullying – look at a mechanism for pupils to do this discreetly e.g. QR code

Chris Morris then spoke to the Parent Council regarding the National Debate for Education:

#### National Debate on Education

Chris Morris was involved the National Discussion – “Let’s Talk Scottish Education”

Chris asked everyone for their ideas on how to receive feedback from our parents.

Parent - Perhaps focus groups, a session during day and one in the evening. Perhaps questions beforehand.

Parent – Perhaps one question with buzz words given prior to focus groups.

Chris thanked everyone for their ideas and he will be in touch.

Question – *What is your vision for the future of education in Scotland?*

You may wish to consider the following themes when answering: -

- Our future learning
- Our future equity
- Our future well-being

- Our future rights
- Our future world

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Impact of proposed Council Budget Briefing  
Head Teacher presented to the council the overview of the proposed council cuts. The Head Teacher would recommend that everyone takes time to read over the Council Briefings (these were highlighted to them in the presentation) on East Renfrewshire's website and then complete the survey. They were also asked to strongly advise all parents/carers to do this.

**7. AOCB**

Nil

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 8pm**

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