

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Wednesday 5th February 2025
in EASTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT: Adele Thomson, Nick Bothwell, Murray MacLeod, Cathy Wilkie-Thompson, Wendy Durie, Vicky Clark, Nilam Ijaz, Beverly Stoner, Jenny MacDonald, Sidra Hasan, Kari Gillies, Ameer Din, Binod Singh

IN ATTENDANCE: Kate Sinclair (HT), Chris Morris (Depute)
Shona McWilliam (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: John Anderson, Katy Berry, Natalie McMillan, Glen Cartwright, Jacqui White, Graham Campbell, Laura Strachan, Denny Henderson, Adam Tomkins

1. INTRODUCTION

Adele welcomed everyone to the meeting, hoped that they had good Christmas break and survived the recent storm. Apologises were noted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (19th November 24)

Minutes have been emailed tonight and will be approved at next meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Adele has forwarded the new email address for the Parent Council and has sent out recently correspondence to members. If you haven't receive anything please let her know.

4. CORRESPONDANCE

- **Parent Employability Support** (info has been sent out to members)
Nilam mentioned that she would certainly recommend the Parent Employability Support.
- **Connect Sessions**
Adele explain to our new members how useful Connect was to parents and how lucky we are that the School Fund pay for the Annual subscription.

5. Discussion around Lunch Provision (Nilam Ijaz)

Nilam has had feedback from parents who are concerned about the lunch provision/portion sizes in our Canteen. Parents feel that the size of the lunch portion is not sufficient to keep our young pupils from feeling hungry during the afternoon which has an effect on their concentration.

Does the fact that parents are saying that they feeling the portions are smaller – have financial impact on families?

On portion size it doesn't really increase in size much from primary to secondary schools. Nilam keen to survey parents for their thoughts. Kate said that she would certainly support this and has asked her to forward her questionnaire.

Kate monitors the queues at lunchtime and does not feel there is an issue with portion size, however she will monitor and also speak to the Canteen Manager and will then get back to Adele.

Chris mentioned that the Canteen have an annual survey where pupils can have their say and also have a chance of winning vouchers.

Kate mentioned that the canteen do offer free fruit/veg ie carrots/lettuce etc to all.

Canteen staff very good at spotting children with perhaps some financial issues or requiring some Pastoral support.

Kate mentioned again the Dining Pod which the school will have installed over the summer

holidays. She has a meeting next week to discuss it. We will gain seating area for another 100 pupils. The pod can also be used for events in the school as it is fully covered.

6. HEADTEACHER REPORT

It was a very busy few months before Christmas with our Art show/CPA event/Curriculum choice evenings/Parents nights. S4 pupils have been on a very successful work experience week and 40 of S2 have returned from a great skiing trip organised by Caron Kincaid in PE.

Issue 1. - Fruit flies.

Kate explained how the fruit flies came into the school and how it was rectified. Unfortunately took longer than expected due to council procurement restraints and having the correct supplier involved. Kate waited to send out an email to parents until she had clear information on when the work would be done.

Issue 2. – Storm

Information was given to HT's at 1pm on the Friday and was sent out directly to parents.

Twitter

The council are looking at Twitter and how we can move forward with it as and are they are concerned about the inappropriate adverts which have started to appear when you are 'posting' a notice. We feel very uncomfortable using it but will continue until we receive any further direction from the council. We may start to use our website more, with each Principal Teacher having access to post for their department. We will keep you posted when a decision has been made.

Staff Absence

Not too bad at present with the majority of absence teachers returning next week. I have 2 confirmed retirements for June with a possibility of another two. At our next meeting I will be able to confirm how many and the names.

School Role

It is projected to increase to 1400 over the next few years and then will settle again at 1300.

S4/5/6 Study Leave/SQA Exams

SQA have again changed the dates for the SQA diet of exams. Easter is also later this year. Final dates for S4/S5/S6 have been changed to accommodate the SQA changes whilst still ensuring pupils start study leave before exams and S6 still have final day events. We are expecting (with the support of our parents) for them to come back to school after the Easter holidays.

Monday 21st April – Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)

Tuesday 22nd April – S4/5/6 should be in school/class for last minute revision.

Wednesday 23rd April – S4/5 should be in school

Wednesday 23rd April – S6 last day (Fun day)

Wednesday 23rd April – was the date for Head Boy/Girl ceremony – however this date has changed to Friday 28th March due to change to SQA dates.

Thursday 24th April – study leave starts for S4/5 pupils

Friday 25th April – 1st SQA exam starts – Computing Science

Friday 30th May – last exam

Monday 2nd June – timetable changes – pupils move up a year

6. AOCB

We have email out to all parents a questionnaire – we urge parents to complete as we value your input.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st April 2025

School Telephone number: 0141 577 2200

School Email: schoolmail@eastwood.e-renfrew.sch.uk