

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 18 January 2010

Present: D Smith, S Pryce, G Young, J Gilbert, I Cairns, B Pound, H Ormiston, K Davidson, M Simpson, R Gangi, C Sincock, J Thomas

Apologies: V Fyfe, A Hutchison, Cllr Swift, L Neil, H Clark, P Fletcher, K Gibson

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted in the proposal of K Davidson and seconded by H Ormiston.

Matters Arising

- PTA have decided that the pencil case purchase would be too expensive to sustain the purchase of them every year as this would take up a large part of funds raised. However it looks as if they will be able to do it this year for the new S1 intake in August.
- C Sincock to meet with G Young to discuss further marketing of pencil cases.
- Careers Evening – D Smith has spoken with PT Careers who will get back with feedback
- I Cairns showed statistics for website hits. He is also looking at World Press for blogging but this may take up to a year to develop.

2. Real Deal Cards

S Pryce introduced these to the members. The main principles are cards with multiple choices. Each person is given 5 cards and they choose one deal breaker card. They must then score on each principle and how they can work towards making a difference. They allow open conversations. AEIR scoring system. Could be used in schools with mentoring and coaching and can be used as an ice breaker. Mr Smith agreed they could be used with the S5 mentoring programme which has just been introduced and they could be used in PSE classes.

3. Head Teacher's Report

- Miss Boyne recently appointed as teacher of Business Education
- School Improvement Plan
 - Lesson observation
 - Professional Learning Communities
 - S5 Mentoring Programme
 - Interim reviews of Improvement Plans
 - Analysis of S4 Prelims
 - Values, Vision and Aims – posters, cards and banners being discussed
 - New thoughts on E-Newsletter
- Recent Highlights
 - Madrid Trip
 - Winter Concert
 - Christmas Dances
 - S1/S2 Panto Trip

- Debating Society invited to the Oxford Union Schools Debate in March
- ERC Art Exhibition – contribution from pupils
- Pupils' Art work is being displayed throughout the school
- Library held a bookfair
- Fundraising for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice at Silverburn
- Forthcoming Events
 - S5/S6 Prelims in February
 - School Travel Plan – a group involving pupils, staff and parents looking at National Walk to School travel plan
 - Cluster to be twinned with a school in India

4. Parent Council Subgroups Suggestion

D Smith advised that these may follow the formulation of the Improvement Plan and set up Parent Improvement Teams. When new initiatives arise it is important to have regular and systematic communication with parents ie questionnaires and forming focus groups following returns from these.

At the next Curricular Evening, parents could be asked for suggestions.

S Pryce suggested that the council should be involved in forming Sub Groups but to be led by the Head Teacher.

C Sincock suggested that the Council set up Aims and Objectives so that Sub Groups do not replicate what the school is already doing.

Further discussion will be carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

Recent copy of Parent Council Newsletter

6. AOCB

- Compliments to the Art Department for artwork display
- Aviva will match the shortfall for Enterprise Group
- B Pound asked about the Awards Ceremonies and Mr Smith explained that the system is being reviewed. Mrs Pound's company SAIC has in the past sponsored IT prizes in primary school and will try to do the same for Mearns Castle.
- Mearns Castle is in the process of developing MCHS TV
- Question as to why current S2 missed out on S1 trip was due to poor snow conditions for the usual S1 Ski Trip. D Smith suggested that the expectation of a trip should not have been raised.
- New Activities Week to be organised for the last week of term – responses being collated

7. DONM – Monday 8 March 2010