

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday, 18 October 2010

Present: A Carter (Acting Chair), A Beattie (clerk), C Davidson, N Farnham, P Fletcher,
V Fyfe, J Gilbert, A Hutchison, J Mack, H Ormiston, M Simpson, D Smith, J Woods

Apologies: S Pryce, C Devenport, J Thoms, C Sincock, E Neil, A Bear, K Davidson,
K Keatings, J Swift

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of Jon Mack and seconded by Helen Ormiston.

2. **Matters Arising**

Chairperson Vacancy – Andrew Carter intimated his interest in playing an active role in the Parent Council and acting as support to Steven Pryce (chair).

3. **Correspondence**

‘Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All’ booklet issued by ERC for chairperson.

4. **Positive Coaching Scotland**

Barry Cook, Senior Active Sports Co-ordinator, gave a presentation on ‘Positive Coaching Scotland’, an initiative that has been piloted for the past three years at Eastwood and Woodfarm Secondary schools and is now being rolled out to all East Renfrewshire schools as well as to parents, coaches and clubs.

The initiative promotes a positive sporting environment, focussing on attitude, team work and effort rather than just ‘winning’.

Barry’s full presentation will be posted on the school website.

5. **Head Teacher’s Report – Striving for Excellence**

• Staffing Updates

- Alan Dick – Depute Head Teacher – takes up his post on 1 November, to replace Joan Herald, who retires on 29 October 2010
- Stephanie Lightbown – PT Design
- Emma Gordon – Development DHT
- Spencer Gooch – Acting PTPSP
- Andrew Hutchison – Acting PT Development
- Kimberley Chalmers – New Teacher of Biology

• School Improvement 2010-11

- Improvement Plan 2010-2011 now available on the website
- Improvement Teams – opportunities for parental involvement
- Electronic Parents’ Newsletter by email from December
- House System-House Points-House Cup
- HMIe consultation on School Inspections

• Recent Highlights

Investors in People Bronze Award, New Senior Awards Ceremony, S4 Work Experience, Eco Committee, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expeditions, Sporting Hall of Fame continues to grow, S6 Young Enterprise Scotland Team, S5 and S6 Parents’ Curriculum Evenings, S1 Parents’ Open Evening, S1 Fun Run – School Funds, £2000 charity fund-raising for Pakistan, Andrew Hutchison presentation on GLOW at the Scottish Learning Festival, European Day of Languages, Connecting Classrooms – Cluster Highland Games, Connecting Classrooms – Cluster staff leave for Delhi on Thursday, Lacrosse Team, Theatre painted at last!

• Coming Up

Charities Week/LBIL, Careers Fair, S5/6 Halloween Ball, Concert Band Scottish Finals, Debating – GUU Debate and St Andrew’s Day Debate, Winter Concert, UCAS Applications, S4 Prelim Exams.

- 6. Glow** - the world's first national intranet for education
Andrew Hutchison gave a brief presentation on Glow – an online, interactive tool for teachers and pupils. It is hoped that in the future more teachers will use Glow to help with teaching and learning, although extensive training will be required.
Parents to be e-mailed link to Glow.
- 7. AOCB**
- PTA Christmas Fayre - 24 November 2010
Pamper evening, gift stalls etc. Helpers required to set up and serve teas and coffees.
 - Winter Concert – 2 December 2010
Raffle prizes required. Prizes can be handed into school office.
 - Bag Packing – February 2011
Helpers required.
- 8. Next meeting** to be held on Monday, 6 December 2010.