

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
28 January 2013

Present: C Sincock (Vice Chair), A Beattie (Clerk), D Smith (Head Teacher), D Barnett, C Devenport, E Ferguson, L McGruther, H Ormiston, L Purcell, J Woods, I Wilson (new member)

Apologies: J Mack (Chair), J Bond, K Gibson, C McLaren

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of Laura Purcell and seconded by Helen Ormiston.
2. **Matters Arising**
 - none
3. **Correspondence**
 - Public Performance Reporting Booklet – issued to all P7 Parents. Also on Council and school websites
 - Parent Council Chairs Meeting - 13 February at Williamwood High School. J Mack and C Sincock will attend along with D Barnett.
4. **‘Shaping Our Future’ Meeting**
 - Consultation period 16 November 2012 – 16 December 2012
 - David Barnett attended this meeting last November on behalf of the Parent Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the intended budget cuts of £10.96 million for 2013/2014 within the Council.
 - John Wilson, Director of Education, outlined the proposed cuts within the Education Department, all of which are outlined in the Shaping our Future Booklet which can be found on the ERC website.
 - There was an opportunity for those attending to voice their opinions and make alternative suggestions.
 - The final date for proposals was 16 December 2012.
 - The final outcome of the consultation should be available mid February.
 - The Head Boy and Head Girl also attended the meeting on behalf of the pupils at Mearns Castle High School. They then fed back their findings to the Pupil Council who in turn wrote a letter to the Authority outlining their views, concerns and suggestions.
 - The pupils’ involvement in the consultation will be shared in the next Parent Newsletter.
 - It was suggested that a Parent Council Meeting date be set in November 2013 to coincide with the next ‘Shaping Our Future’ consultation process.
5. **PTA**
 - Bag packing at Asda – date to be confirmed
 - Quiz Night – Friday 17 May. Email/Text to be issued to parents as a ‘Date for the Diary’.
 - PTA/Pupil Council Section to be added to Parent Newsletters
 - Accounts – J Woods and S Sorley are signatories but a third signatory is required. J Woods will arrange for accounts to be audited.

6. Head Teacher's Report

- S4/S5/S6 Tracking Data – D Smith shared with the council the process for tracking pupil attainment by setting Targets for each pupil. These targets are then compared with Tracking Reports, Prelim Exams and SQA Exams. This continuous monitoring of pupil progress highlights where additional support may be required from teachers and/or parents to help pupils reach their targets.
- School Leaver Destination Statistics 2011-2012 – Higher Education 76%, Further Education 11.6%, Training 1.2%, Employment 7.2%, Voluntary 1.2%, Unemployed seeking employment 3.2%, Unemployed not seeking employment 0%, Not known 0% = Positive Outcome 96.8%

7. Homework Workshop

Ian Cairns hosted a Homework Workshop where the following questions/statements were discussed:-

- Why do we use homework?
- What do you consider to be features of good quality homework?
- How effective is homework at promoting dialogue between parents and their children?
- I know what homework my child has been set
- My child receives sufficient homework
- My child's homework helps to support their learning
- I feel confident in supporting my child with their homework
- How can we help you to support your child with home learning?

The Parent Council feedback will be added to that from staff and pupils to shape a new homework policy for all year groups.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 11th March 2013 at 7.00 pm, in the Conference Room