

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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**Present:** J Mack (Chair), A Beattie (Clerk), D Smith (Head Teacher), D Barnett, A Carter, C Devenport, E Ferguson, L Purcell, I Wilson, J Woods, S Wallace (new member)

**Apologies:** C Sincock (Vice Chair), K Gibson, E Gordon, L McGrouther

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1. **Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of C Devenport and seconded by D Barnett.

2. **Matters Arising**

- none

3. **Correspondence**

- none

4. **Wifi/BYOD**

Ian Cairns, Depute Head Teacher, gave a presentation on the introduction of Wifi and Bring Your Own Device to school. It is hoped that this new initiative will enhance pupil learning and deliver the principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

- Mearns Castle has been chosen by ERC to pilot this initiative
- The Vision – to make the whole school a digital classroom with access to digital resources at anytime, anywhere and anyhow.
- In preparation for the launch in Session 2013-14, Virgin Media has surveyed the school buildings and an O2 business consultant visited the school.
- Pupils, staff and parents will be consulted on the benefits and challenges

The Council agreed this was the way forward but had some concerns e.g. some pupils may not have their own smart device to bring to school. Mr Cairns assured the Council that all areas of concern would be addressed and is confident that by working together, through consultation, we can overcome any obstacles. Mr Cairns will keep the Council updated on the pilot's progress.

5. **Head Teacher's Report**

S4 and S5/S6 Tracking

- Prelim results added to the statistics given at last Parent Council Meeting

Recent Highlights

- S3 RMPS pupils visited the Scottish Parliament to interview Margo McDonald MSP
- New synthetic football pitch opened
- Pupil Dyslexia Support Group have made a number of presentations
- Christmas Dance tins to Glasgow City Mission
- Steven McLean (Football Referee) and Scott Jamieson (Pro Golfer) added to Sporting Hall of Fame
- S5/S6 Prelim Exams
- ERC Electric Glen Light Sculpture event
- S2, S4, S5 Option Choice programme
- Hospitality Interdisciplinary Burns Supper
- S3/S4 Football trip to Man City v Chelsea
- House Reward card scheme
- World Book Day
- SQA Practical Exams started, Music, Hospitality
- S4 Pupil in Scottish Disability Sport Paralympic Pathway festival
- Senior Boys Volleyball Team in Scottish Cup Final
- Debating team at Durham University

- S2 Champions in Schools programme – Susan Eglestaff
- 4 Athletics medals at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships, Gold, Silver 2xBronze
- Junior Chess team won their league
- 3rd in Regional Finals of British Karting Championships
- S2 and S3 Girl 2nd place in the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships – both selected to represent Scotland

#### Coming Up

- Presentation of House Cup
- Spring Concert
- S3 Exams
- S6 Leavers' Ceremony
- SQA Exams 2013

### **6. Parent Council Chairs Meeting Feedback**

Jon Mack attended the Parent Council Chairs meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Please see relevant documentation attached.

- Minutes of meeting - attached
- The National Parent Forum of Scotland – E-News update February 2013 - attached
- Performance of East Renfrewshire Schools 2011-2012 – attached
- Recruitment & Selection – MCHS Parent Council have four members who are currently trained
- AGM – will be held at the last Parent Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### **7. Finance Update**

- Accounts with auditor
- Laura Purcell agreed to be the required 3<sup>rd</sup> signatory

### **8. PTA Update**

#### Quiz Night

- Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Help required to run bar
- D Smith will advertise in Parents' Newsletter which will be issued before the Spring break
- Raffle prizes required

### **9. AOB**

- D Barnett passed on feedback from one S2 parent regarding the S2 Options booklet having, in their opinion, too much information and the Social Subjects leaflet not being easy to read. This was not the view of S2 parents at the meeting who found the booklet very informative.
- Jon Mack informed the Council of his intention to stand down as Chair at the end of the session due to work commitments. Election for new Chair will be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

### **10. Date of Next Meeting & AGM – Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.00 pm**