

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday, 25 August 2014

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**Present:** D Barnett (Chair), D Smith (Head Teacher), A Beattie (clerk), C Dearie, E Ferguson, S Hale, L McGrouther, P Nicol, L Purcell (PTA Chair), A Rose, G Stewart, J Thomson, S Wallace, Isabel Wilson

**Apologies:** A Blair, K Borland, I Clark, C McLachlan, J Woods

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**1. Minutes of Last Meeting** accepted on the proposal of P Nicol and seconded by L Purcell

**2. Matters Arising:**

- Online Parents Meeting – new system will be in place for the first Parents' Meeting of this session i.e. S4 Parents' Meeting on 2 October 2014.

**3. Correspondence**

- Scottish Learning Festival – D Barnett will email link to members. It was noted that the SLF will take place during the Jewish New Year. D Barnett will email the Authority regarding this.

**4. Vice Chair**

- David again asked members to contact Anne Beattie with any notes of interest in the vacant post

**5. Parent Council Constitution**

- A copy of the Constitution was issued to members
- It was noted that MCHS Parent Council is following the Constitution guidelines with regards to membership.

**6. Head Teachers' Report**

Staffing Matters

- Marilyn Brennan, PT Modern Languages
- Paul Donnelly, PT Pupil Support Pastoral – Ramsay House
- Jane McDowall, Teacher of Chemistry
- Michael Mackison, Teacher of Maths
- Natasha Bell, 0.6fte Science Technician
- 0.5fte PT Development vacancy

SQA Exam Results

- SQA Results – another very strong set of results for S5 and S6 and the best ever results for S4
- 3 passes in the Science Baccalaureate – 2 Distinctions
- 1 pass in the Expressive Arts Baccalaureate

Health & Safety Matters

- Pilmuir Holdings & Quarry – concerns were raised by the owner regarding pupils breaking into the quarry at the start of the summer. Mr Smith visited the quarry so that he could inform pupils of the dangers at appropriate assemblies.

## **7. Finance Update**

- J Woods not present at meeting so no update given

## **8. PTA Update**

- Quiz Night was a huge success – gross intake approx. £1000
- School Show Teas/Coffees and Raffle raised approx. £600
- Senior Awards Ceremony, 3 September – PTA to provide and serve Teas & Coffees. Mearns Castle Kitchen will provide cakes.
- Dates for PTA Calendar to be discussed at next Senior Leadership Meeting
- S Hale has a list of parents wishing to get involved with PTA
- S Hale suggested an S6 Pupil PTA link to help at appropriate events
- School requests for funding will be discussed at next meeting once we have a Financial update
- Discussion took place regarding the possibility of opening a new bank account to enable L Purcell to bank cash and write cheques

## **9. AOB**

- Discussion took place regarding ongoing traffic issues. D Smith will discuss concerns with Campus Officer
- A question was raised regarding whether there is a shortage of Geography text books in the school after a comment made by a local retailer. E Ferguson, Acting PT Social Subjects, informed the Council that she was not aware of any shortage in text books but would check with the Department.
- A question was asked about parents employing Private Tutors for their children. Dean Smith said that this was entirely a matter of parental choice.
- Date of next two meetings – Monday, 6 October 2014 and Monday, 10 November 2014. Other dates will be scheduled at next meeting when the PTA Calendar will be available