

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 22nd October 2007

Present: Mr D Barnett, Mr P Fletcher, Mr D McPhail-Smith, Mrs H Ormiston, Mrs R Gangi, Mrs M Dalglish, Mr S Pryce, Mrs A Coubrough, Mr D Smith, Miss P Barr, Miss G Elliot, Mrs F Zaman, Mrs E Cohen, Mrs V Fyfe, Mrs M Duthie, Mrs F Fyfe, Mrs J Ruddock, Mrs K Keatings, Mr A Sinclair

Apologies: Mr R Gimby, Mr I Kilmurray, Mrs S Smith, Mrs A Lovatt

1. **Minutes of last meeting** on 10th September 2007 adopted on the proposal of Mr Pryce and seconded by Mrs Orton.

2. **New members**

Mr Barnett introduced the council to three new members: Mrs Gangi, Mrs Coubrough and Mrs Zaman. There were also two pupil members, Miss G Elliot S5 and Miss P Barr who was representing S6 just for this evening. Max Hutchison S6 will become the regular pupil member.

3. **Matters arising**

Mr Fletcher reported on the DVD - Involving Parents – it contains some very valuable information and he recommended that each member watch the DVD and someone could make a full report on it. Mr Pryce took the DVD and suggested that some copies could be made and distributed so that every member could have a chance to view it before the next meeting. He will organise this.

4. **Correspondence**

- Parent Teacher Council information
- Information from Mrs Kennedy advising members not to carry out certain advice given by SPTCas ERC is preparing guidelines
- Training sessions offered – Mr Barnett suggested that some members could attend the Recruitment and Selection training.
- Mrs Coubrough is attending Disclosure training and Mrs Orton is already familiar with being lead signatory.

5. **Fundraising sub-committee report**

- PTA officially disbanded
- Balance of £1342 in bank.
- There is £224 outstanding to the Golf Academy but no invoice has been received despite repeated demands to them by Mrs Cohen.
- Discussion took place on how best to spend funds. Although grant was received for the electrics in the Fitness Suite, some equipment is still needed and it was decided that £1000 would be paid to the school. Mrs Cohen confirmed that donations are generally made by asking the Head Teacher what is required.
- Next round of fundraising will be bag-packing at ASDA on 24th November. Letter to go out to parents and Miss Barr suggested targeting sports teams.
- 4 copies of SPTC newsletters distributed

6. Head Teacher's Report

Mr Smith gave his report in a PowerPoint presentation and used "How Good is Our School" as a guideline

- Exam results statistics compared to ERC and National percentages
- Key performance outcomes in extra curricular activities
- Impact on Learners – trips/visits enhance the curriculum and some activities engage parental involvement
- Impact on staff – ACE and new outcomes in Science and Numeracy plus extra curricular activities currently on offer
- Engagement with the community – ie Work Experience, Charities Week, BBC film, recent hosting of Polish Cosmonaut on behalf of The Association of Space Explorers
- Delivery of Education – various activities ie SciFun Roadshow, S1 Enterprise Day, S1 and S2 Poetry competition, European day of Languages
- ACE – steering groups headed by members of senior management
- Policy Development and Planning – presently reviewing 2007 -08 plans
- Management and support staff – fully staffed
- Resources – improvements made to building on ongoing basis
- Leadership – eg CPD programme, Pupil Council

7. Parent Council Chairs meeting

Mr Barnett and Mr Fletcher attended - various presentations viewed

- Parents as Partners pack
- CPD for Parent Councils
- Particularly good presentation on Anti-Bullying and Internet safety. Mr Barnett suggested that Anne McLean be invited to give the same presentation to the Council and maybe subsequently to the school. He will contact Ms McLean to arrange a suitable date.

8. AOCB

- Mr Smith suggested that the DVD (Involving Parents – discussed in item 3) be compared to what the school actually does and see what remains
- Mrs Cohen suggested that a letter re bagpacking go out to parents as soon as possible. She asked the council to volunteer for supervision duties on 24th November over three sessions. Names were taken.
- A parent questioned Mr Barnett as to why MCHS charges for after school clubs. This charge is only to pay teaching staff for their time and was previously under the auspices of the School Board.
- Mr Fletcher suggested that there is a way of supplementing extra curricular activities by inviting sports/clubs from the community to involve themselves with the school.

9. DONM

Monday 3 December 2007 at 7pm.