

MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

3.12.07

Present: Mr D Barnett, Mr D Smith, Cllr J Swift, Mrs E Cohen, Mr A Sinclair,
Mrs F Zaman, Mr D McPhail- Smith, Mr I Kilmurray, Mrs H Ormiston,
Mr P Fletcher, Miss G Elliot, Mr I Laird, Mrs V Fyfe, Mrs R Gangi,
Mrs A Coubrough, Mrs C Davidson, Mrs A McLean

Apologies: Mr I Cairns, Cll Green, Mr S Pryce, Mrs J Ruddock, Mrs S Smith, Mrs M Duthie,
Mrs F Fyfe, Mrs A Lovatt, Mrs K Keatings.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting (amendments/adoption)

- Following minor amendment the minutes were adopted on the proposal of Mr McPhail-Smith and seconded by Mr Sinclair.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- PE department is looking at the costing of after school clubs
- Mrs Ormiston attended Recruitment and Selection training
- Mrs Duthie attended Finance meeting

3. Presentation by Anne McLean on Internet Safety

Explanation of filtering system, firewalls, curricular links and user agreements. Presentation really should be aimed at parents of younger pupils. Advised to set parental control on some sites.

Mr Fletcher asked if the same presentation could be given to pupils. The presentation is on the staff only section of the intranet and staff can use this to deliver to pupils.

Mr Barnett suggested that a full presentation should be given to parents and Mr Smith will speak with Mrs Herald (DHT) and Mr McKenna (DHT) to arrange suitable date(s) and deliver this to parents together with S Greer (Campus Cop)

Brief discussion took place on whether it should be delivered to a large or small group. The former was agreed and Mr Fletcher suggested that a wider media should be adopted for contact with parents i.e. text, email as well as the current medium, the newsletter.

4. Correspondence

- Mr Barnett received letter re disclosure of members. It was agreed that this would be needed for very few occasions but if necessary one person could do the pre-vetting and then send off disclosures for all.
- Letter received from Scottish Government, 'Parental Involvement – next steps' which will be copied and distributed to members with these minutes.

5. Fund Raising Sub Committee Report

- Almost £1400 was raised at the ASDA bag packing and the only expenditure was £18 for buckets.
- A discussion took place on concerns re safekeeping of funds over the week end since the school's safe was not accessible.
- Account to be audited. Mr Sinclair will ask Mrs Flaherty.
- On Thursday 6th December, the PTA will be selling tea/coffee/mince pies at the Christmas Concert evening and it is also planned to hold a raffle.

6. Head Teacher's Report

During this week ERC is carrying out a Standards & Quality Review over a period of three days. A report will be produced early in the New Year. Mr Smith made a presentation to the team and showed the same presentation to the Council this evening.

7. AOCB

- Mr Barnett attended 'Look Back in Laughter'. He praised the show and the pupils and he urged all members to attend next year if possible.
- The Times on line showed Mearns Castle as being the 5th Highest achieving school in Scotland
- Mr Fletcher asked if 4th/5th/6th years' homework is co-ordinated between subjects. He felt that pupils are often overburdened with work. Mr Smith explained that parents can help by prioritising especially before prelim times. The school has a Working Group looking at Home Study.
- Mr Fletcher asked if there is anything the Parent Council do to help Mr Smith by forming sub committees. It was agreed that school plan be brought to the group and a discussion could take place.

8. DONM

The next three meeting for this year were decided on:

Monday 28th January 2008

Monday 17th March 2008

Monday 12th May 2008

Any other meetings will be agreed if necessary